

Jordan Times

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Bonn: Budget cuts will restore confidence

BONN (R) — The German government, determined to slash soaring budget deficits caused by unification, imposed tight cuts on public spending on Wednesday which it said would restore international confidence in the country's economy. The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) dismissed the measures as wishful thinking. They came as the powerful IG Metall union prepared to meet employers in a last-ditch attempt to avert the first strike in the country's vital engineering sector since 1984. Finance Minister Theo Waigel said Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition had unanimously agreed that federal spending would not be allowed to grow by more than 2.5 per cent per year until 1996, meaning it will fall in real terms. No new spending will be allowed unless it is offset by cuts in other areas. "This consolidation course will require responsibility and solidarity. It is also necessary to strengthen confidence domestically and especially abroad," Mr. Waigel told a news conference. "It must be clear that Germany remains the number one country in terms of stability and is maintaining the anchor function of the deutschmark in the European monetary system."

Iraq rules out action against Kurdish vote

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denounced as illegal next Sunday's elections in rebel-held Kurdistan but ruled out the use of force to derail them. Mehdi Saleh, speaker of the National Assembly, said on Wednesday Baghdad wanted to "solve internal problems peacefully." He was asked by Reuters whether Iraq intended to disrupt the elections by military or other means. He said: "I do not think so." For the simple reason, we are in dialogue with the Kurdistan Front. True, this dialogue has stopped but it is not severed. "The front is an umbrella of eight political parties which rejected a Baghdad plan for Kurdish autonomy last year. This step (elections) is unconstitutional. It is being carried out under the bayonets of the United States, Britain and France," Mr. Saleh said. Kurdish officials said Iraqi soldiers had warned Kurds in a northern Iraq region their villages would be shelled if they tried to vote in the May 17 elections for a supreme leader of the Kurds and a parliament.

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Irbid municipal elections postponed

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid municipal elections were extended for another day because of the low turnout of voters which did not exceed 32 per cent of the number of registered voters. The elections were extended for three hours on Wednesday and only less than third of the eligible voters showed up at the balloting centres. Article 26 of the municipalities law states that more than half the registered voters in any elections should cast their ballots to make the count legal. The decision to extend the election period was issued by Irbid Deputy Governor Hussein Al Habashneh.

Arab League chief opposes Arab security pacts with West

CAIRO (AP) — The Arab League's top official Wednesday rejected Arab security pacts with the West, apparently referring to Kuwait's defence agreements with the United States and Britain. "Any security arrangements taking place presently between any Arab countries and western countries will fail and cannot live for long," Esam Abdul Meguid, secretary-general of the 21-member league, told African reporters. "Any arrangements to protect Arab security have to come from within the Arabs and between them, so that they can be enduring and convincing to Arab public opinion," he added.

Australia's foreign minister in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Australia's Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans arrived in Israel Wednesday to discuss Middle East peace efforts. His 24-hour visit is the second leg of a six-country Middle East tour. Mr. Evans is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defence Minister Moshe Arens, Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinians, including negotiators with Israel.

Algeria expels French journalist

ALGIERS (AP) — The correspondent of French newspaper Le Monde has been given 48 hours to leave the country, Algerian authorities announced Wednesday. Georges Marion, who was reprimanded for writing a story last year saying that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was seeking asylum in Algeria, was ordered out by Algeria's Foreign Ministry. He had been living in Algeria under orders by the Algerian government not to work as a journalist, but allowed to stay until his children's school year ended in June. But an article with Mr. Marion's byline was published in Le Monde Tuesday saying that Algeria's efforts to fight corruption could reach to the country's highest leaders.

Ramos gains lead in Philippine poll count

MANILA (R) — Former defence chief Fidel Ramos seized the lead on Wednesday from arch-rival Miriam Santiago in the draw-out counting of votes in Philippine presidential elections, an unofficial tally showed. With 4.2 million of the estimated 25 million votes counted, the tally by the Roman Catholic Church-backed Radio Veritas showed Mr. Ramos moving ahead of long-time front-runner Santiago, a popular and pugnacious anti-graft campaigner, for the first time. The radio, compiling unofficial results from around the country, had Mr. Ramos leading with 22.4 per cent of the vote, compared with 22.02 per cent for Ms. Santiago (see page 5).

Ukrainian parliament annuls Crimean vote

KIEV (R) — The Ukrainian parliament Wednesday annulled a declaration of independence by the Crimean peninsula in a move likely to generate further tension. Russia two days before a commonwealth summit. Parliament voted by 340 to six to annul two resolutions passed last week by the parliament of the mainly Russian-speaking territory.

Peace talks tackle two of toughest Mideast issues

U.S. renews support for Palestinians' right of return, but says issue should be negotiated

Plight and fate of refugees on focus at Ottawa meeting

MIDEAST TALKS on two of the region's toughest problems began Wednesday in Ottawa and Vienna where delegates were tackling the plight of Palestinian refugees and how to share scarce water resources. Talks in Washington on arms control, which have developed into a seminar on crisis avoidance and management techniques, entered their third and final day. The meetings are part of a process designed to support and complement the main Arab-Israeli peace talks which began last October in Madrid and recently completed their fifth round having achieved minimal progress. But the inclusion of Palestinian "exiles" from outside the Israeli-occupied territories in two of the five sessions — on economic development in Brussels and refugees in Ottawa — led to an Israeli boycott of those two meetings.

Israel argued that dealing with diaspora Palestinians opened the way for discussion of their right of return. The United States angered Israel even more on Tuesday when it said it backed a 1948 U.N. resolution that Palestinians had a right to return to their homes or receive compensation. Set beside a Syrian and Lebanese boycott of all five sessions, the Israeli absence highlighted the difficulties surrounding the Middle East peace process, which has succeeded in generating a lot of international meetings but not in bridging the real gaps between the parties. In Brussels, where a two-day session on economic development wound up on Tuesday, the Palestinian team made this very point. The key to the doors of regional cooperation, presently closed, can only be provided by a successful outcome to the bilateral talks," the delegation said in a statement.

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Israel is surprised at U.S. statement, seeks 'clarification'

THE UNITED STATES, clarifying its position on the right of Palestinians to return to their homes in British-mandate Palestine, said on Wednesday such issues must be negotiated directly between Israel and Palestinians. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler reiterated U.S. support for two United Nations resolutions endorsing the right of return but stressed as a new briefing. "The issues raised in both these resolutions, like those raised in many other U.N. resolutions relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict, can only be resolved through a process of direct negotiations among the parties themselves." The United States' position on Palestinian right of return goes to the heart of multilateral talks on Mideast regional issues taking place this week, especially refugee talks in Ottawa and economic talks in Brussels which Israel has boycotted because Palestinian exiles are taking part. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman expressed surprise Wednesday at Washington's renewed support for the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland. Spokesman Ehud Gol said Israel has also asked for an explanation for the statement. In response to a reporter's question, Ms. Tutwiler Tuesday reaffirmed U.S. support for United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 passed in December 1948. The U.N. resolution says Palestinian exiles should be permitted to return or receive compensation for homes they fled or were driven from in the 1948 independence war. "If indeed she said it we are surprised and we have instructed our embassy in Washington to ask for clarifications from the American administration," Mr. Gol responded.

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Water problem tabled at Vienna meeting

ARABS, ISRAELIS and other diplomats met Wednesday to discuss sharing water, as the chairman of the 38-nation conference warned against high expectations over the Middle East's most precious resource. Water is considered so vital to long-term security in the Middle East that a separate meeting on its use was established as part of the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process. Even if Arabs and Israelis can find a way to make peace, the struggle for water could explode into new conflicts. "Unless steps are taken, the water issue will develop into a major conflict in the Middle East," said Professor Elias Salameh of Jordan University. "The region's population will double by 2010," said Salameh, a leading Arab hydrologist, speaking ahead of the conference in a telephone interview from Amman. "We'll need twice as much water as we have now."

Israel and the Arabs have clashed constantly over the region's water since the Jewish state was founded in 1948. But the conflict transcends Israeli-Arab rivalries, pitting Turkey against neighbours Syria and Iraq, and Egypt against Ethiopia and Sudan. The chairman of the closed two-day meeting, Austria's Alexander Christian, said as delegates convened that agreement was a long way off. "We're not going to negotiate any kind of final treaty here," he told reporters, describing the conference as "an effort to put things on track." Five key Middle East states — Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya and Syria — were absent from the Vienna meeting. Mr. Christian said Iran, Lebanon and Syria had refused to participate, apparently seeing little use to the talks with lack of progress at Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Dan Zaslavsky, head of the Israeli delegation, appealed for cooperation at the talks despite traditional tensions. The issue of water use has to be "discussed now, whether we have peace or not," he told the Austria press agency. Iraq and Libya were not invited "for the obvious reasons," Mr. Christian said. Organisers described the conference as a working meeting which would not produce any formal document, but act as a starting point for a multilateral debate on the region's pressing water problem. "Realistically we're trying to put this thing on the right track," Mr. Christian told reporters. "We hope that it will not be overshadowed by the political statements between the different sides," he said. "We hope that political willingness will transcend the restating of sterile positions." Opening addresses to the conference stressed the need for reliable exchange of data and major capital investment in the region. Delegates said later discussions were likely to focus on disputes over the right to take water from rivers which flow across more than one border, and on alternative water sources. The Jordanian delegation is led by Dr. Munther Haddadin, former director of the Jordan Valley Authority. Dr. Haddadin will submit a working paper stressing the need for the restoration of the silted rights of the Palestinian people in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions as a pre-requisite for cooperation among the countries of the region in water-related affairs. Palestinian representatives are expected to raise the issue of Israel's use of scant water supplies in the occupied territories.

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Solh designated to form new cabinet

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi on Wednesday designated parliament member Rasheed Solh, a Sunni Muslim, to form a new cabinet to deal with the country's worsening economic crisis. A lawyer by profession, Mr. Solh hails from a prominent Sunni clan that gave Lebanon three other prime ministers in 48 years. He was prime minister when the civil war broke out in 1975, but resigned 40 days later. His designation capped two days of consultations carried out by Mr. Hrawi with members of Lebanon's 108-seat, single chamber parliament on the new head of cabinet. Mr. Solh, 66, was nominated for the post by 77 deputies, which gave him the majority required by the constitution to form a new cabinet. Mr. Solh will carry out a round of consultations with parliament members and former prime ministers on the formation of a new cabinet to replace the 30-man half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet of Prime Minister Omar Karami who resigned May 6. Mr. Solh was expected to announce his cabinet before expiration of a May 18 deadline set by 350,000-strong General Federation of Labour Unions to resume a nationwide strike if a new cabinet were not formed to deal with the country's economic crisis. Mr. Karami resigned after two days of nationwide violence by workers protesting against the worst economic crisis in the country's 48 years of independence. Lebanon's economy, ravaged

by the 1975-1990 civil war, has slipped into even deeper chaos since the conflict ended in October 1990. The Lebanese pound, once the soundest currency in the Middle East, rated 2.5 to the U.S. dollar before outbreak of the civil strife. It plummeted to 2,100 to the dollar last week. The nosedive from 880 to the dollar in February sent prices sky high in a nation that imports 85 per cent of its basic needs. "We have to see what team he decides on to see if they are ready to grasp the nettle," said a Western envoy. "The cabinet must make some very hard decisions very quickly to succeed." Diplomats said the cabinet needed to end widespread official corruption and win confidence by showing some independence from Damascus. This would help attract foreign aid and investment to revitalise the economy. "They added that several cabinet blueprints quoted by official sources indicated the new team would be much the same as the Karami government and would suffer the same problems. Many Lebanese said they doubted Mr. Solh was up to the tough task. "I ask God to help me in this hard task and to succeed in it," said the Lawyer, whose first term as prime minister was cut short in 1975 by the start of 15 years of civil war. "I am sure all Lebanese are looking today to put an end to the tragic economic situation ... at the same time I will do my best to ensure national reconciliation," he told reporters.

Israel's new firing rule under more fire

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian human rights group said on Wednesday secret changes in Israeli army firing rules apparently let soldiers shoot without warning any Palestinian suspected of being armed even with a chain or a stone. Al Haq, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, said the changes had contributed to a recent sharp increase in killings by both uniformed forces and undercover units targeting wanted activists in the occupied territories. The army has acknowledged it "adjusted" the firing regulations this year but has denied charges by Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups of a deliberate shoot-to-kill policy. It refuses to detail the orders. "Although the scope and extent of their expansion remain unclear, the new regulations now apparently permit armed forces to shoot to kill, without warning, any Palestinian suspected of carrying a weapon," said a report by Al Haq. "The expanded regulations, for the first time appear to include chains and stones (with no qualification) in their definition of weapon," it said. Al Haq said the changes made without announcement on Feb. 2 also allowed soldiers to fire at fleeing suspects after either shouting a warning or firing in the air. Previous regulations required both. According to a Reuters count, 52 of 898 Palestinians killed by Israelis during the more than four-year-old Palestinian revolt

against Israeli occupation have died this year. At least 20 were killed by undercover agents. Major-General Danny Yatom, commander in the West Bank, said last week that Israel had changed its open fire rules because of an increase in armed attacks by Palestinians late last year. Israeli soldiers, meanwhile, shot and wounded nine Palestinians in two separate incidents in the occupied territories on Wednesday, Palestinians and army sources said. In Jerusalem, a Palestinian wielding a knife stabbed and lightly injured a Jewish boy, police said. The attacker, who was carrying a leaflet issued by the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas group, was arrested with a knife in his hand, Israel Radio and a police spokeswoman said. The victim was slightly injured in the shoulder and hospitalised, and the Palestinian was beaten by bystanders before police got to him and arrested him. He was not immediately identified. Dozens of Israelis crowded the area after the attack, some shouting "Death to the Arabs." "Let us kill him," said Tamar Ben-David, 30, who was at the centre doing her shopping. Palestinians said eight people were wounded, one seriously, when soldiers opened fire at a crowd of people in the Gaza Strip Rafah refugee camp after a fire bomb was hurled at an army jeep. An Israeli army spokeswoman said the soldiers shot and wound-

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Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor leave for the Netherlands Wednesday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

King, Queen arrive in the Hague

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in the Netherlands on Wednesday for talks on Middle East peace and economic cooperation. The King would also address a world forum of businessmen and economists meeting there before leaving for London on Friday, where he is scheduled to meet Prime Minister John Major. The King was accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and a number of economists and private-sector investors. High on King Hussein's agenda are the peace process and means of enhancing relations with the two European countries. Upon their arrival in the Hague King Hussein and Queen Noor were received by Dutch Crown

Prince William Alexander and senior Dutch officials as well as the Jordanian ambassador to the Netherlands. Later in the afternoon, Their Majesties met with Queen Beatrix in a first meeting with Dutch officials. The lecture the King will deliver in Holland is entitled "The Middle East and the Need for new International Policies." A Jordanian delegation is currently visiting the Netherlands for talks with Dutch officials on ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation and increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. King Hussein and Queen Noor were seen off at the airport by their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein in addition to

several members of the royal family. The King and the Queen were also seen off by the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the chief chamberlain, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, the King's private chamberlain, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the director of the Public Security Department, several senior government and military officials, the Dutch honorary consul in Amman and the British ambassador to Jordan. Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in before King Hussein and in the presence of the cabinet members to save as Regent while His Majesty is abroad. Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour are also accompanying the King.

Palestinians hail King's gesture

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian Muslim leaders in the Israeli-occupied territories Wednesday welcomed His Majesty King Hussein's contribution to and support for renovating Islam's holiest shrines in Jerusalem. In a statement issued in Jerusalem, the Higher Islamic Council said they favour King Hussein's \$8.25 million donation and oppose other involvement in the affairs of Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. "The Higher Islamic Council ... wants to direct attention to the political dangers that may arise from the intervention of foreign or international bodies in direct or indirect work relating to the Al

Aqsa mosque or any part of its yards," the statement said. King Hussein, whose government remains formally responsible for Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, announced Monday he was paying \$8.25 million of his own money into a fund for renovating the 7th-century shrine. King Hussein's decision to provide his own funds to restore Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock should block outside intervention in the shrines, the head of a mosque restoration committee said. A Royal Court spokesman said in Amman the King had sold a small country house near London to raise funds for the bequest. He gave no further details.

The donation to install a fire alarm and repair the gold-coloured dome of one of Islam's holiest shrines was announced Monday. "The donation was a decisive move which put matters in the right legal perspective," Al Sheikh Izzeddine Al Khateib Al Tamimi, head of an Amman-based committee in charge of restoring Al Aqsa mosque and the nearby Dome of the Rock since 1952, said. Sheikh Tamimi, also minister of Islamic endowments, a religious affairs, said the gesture ensured his committee would remain in control of restorations, assuring they are done properly.

Russia, Afghanistan signal new ties

KABUL (AP) — Afghanistan's Islamic government announced Wednesday it would let a prisoner of war (POW) go back to Moscow. The guerrilla-led government's defence minister, Ahmad Shah Masood, announced the release in a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who arrived in Kabul Wednesday. He called the release "the first step for the development of relations between our two countries." Mr. Masood, who battled Soviet forces for 10 years in northern Afghanistan during Moscow's 10-year occupation,

said the soldier, whom he did not name, would fly back to Moscow with Mr. Kozyrev on Thursday. During an hour-long meeting with Kozyrev, Masood reiterated an Afghan government request for war reparations. "It is obvious that our country has been destroyed totally," Mr. Masood told reporters after the meeting as he stood by Mr. Kozyrev's side. "It should be reconstructed again." He said Russia should help Afghanistan rebuild based on "humanitarian and moral grounds." Mr. Kozyrev agreed but said Russia was also interested in Afghanistan for economic

reasons. Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Kozyrev met with Afghan President Sibghatullah Mojaddidi. Afterwards, he said: "It's a real new beginning for a relationship between two countries who were victims of communist totalitarianism." Mr. Kozyrev said his discussions with Mr. Mojaddidi included "the security and stability of the region." Russia is concerned about the influence of an Islamic government in Afghanistan on the Central Asian republics, most notably Tajikistan.

Ahlan wa Sahlan

The Arab Orthodox Societies and their members extend a heartfelt welcome to

His Beatitude Alexis II
Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia

and wish him a pleasant stay in Jordan, the country that achieved democracy and pluralism through its Arab traditions under the leadership of our monarch

His Majesty King Hussein
and
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

The Arab Orthodox Society, Orthodox Club, the Orthodox Educational Society

Arabs want Jerusalem status discussed now

CAIRO (R) — Palestinians backed by influential Arabs said on Wednesday they plan to trigger debate on the future status of Jerusalem at this week's multi-lateral peace talks.

"Jerusalem should be discussed from this moment because its status affects several related issues," Nabil Sha'ath, a key architect of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) peace policy, told Reuters.

Dr. Sha'ath said Palestinians would raise Jerusalem as an issue in four of the five multilateral committees they are attending. They were not invited to the regional disarmament forum.

Israel, which refuses to discuss Jerusalem at any stage of the talks and calls the Holy City its "eternal capital," annexed Arab East Jerusalem after the 1967 Middle East war.

Terms of reference of the Middle East peace talks set by co-sponsors Moscow and Washington have put off discussion of Jerusalem until the final stage of the complex process to try to bring lasting peace to the region.

But Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mubarak told Cairo Television on Tuesday night: "Waiting to discuss Jerusalem in the end might not lead to the desired aim... it must be discussed and at the multilateral stage."

Egypt, one of Washington's closest Arab allies, is the only Arab state at peace with Israel. Cairo has spearheaded Arab de-

mands to form a separate multi-lateral committee to discuss Jerusalem, site of Islam's third holiest shrine.

"Jerusalem is important and central to the peace process. I and many others believe a committee to discuss the status of Jerusalem must be formed because the issue is highly complicated," Mr. Musa said.

The United States has assured Arabs that Jerusalem and its Arab inhabitants would join at the last stage of the process to discuss the final status of occupied territories.

But Washington, which does not recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital, sees bringing up the issue now as a "non-starter." The talks launched in Madrid at the historic Middle East peace conference in October are being followed up with bilateral talks and multilateral negotiations which started this week.

Talks on the final status of the occupied territories are supposed to start years after Palestinians and Israelis agree on interim self-rule for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arabs say these talks will include Jerusalem while Israel says they will not.

Dr. Sha'ath, main political aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Palestinians would raise the issue of Jerusalem in two committees boycotted by Israel, those on economic development and refugees.

Kuwait to step up security after rise in violence

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is stepping up internal security to curb violence that has surged just over a year after the end of a brutal war to end Iraqi occupation.

Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted on Wednesday as saying the violence "has evil aims to destabilise the security of the country, foment dissension and fragment our national unity."

Local newspapers said he was speaking during an emergency meeting on Tuesday night with Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah and security officials to discuss ways of controlling the violence.

The Crown Prince urged security forces to do more to protect Kuwaitis and "not to be lenient in applying the law." He asked residents to be on the lookout for suspicious people.

Officials said they had not yet determined whether those behind the trouble were Kuwaitis or outsiders.

In one recent incident an explosion went off near the home of a university dean. A renowned actor was the target of a machinegun attack in another.

No one was hurt and no group has claimed responsibility. The dean, Hail Al Sayer, angered Muslim fundamentalists last year by banning women students in veils. Fundamentalists strongly denied media hints they were behind the explosion.

The two incidents sparked renewed calls for the collection of weapons held by Kuwaitis — many seized from Iraqi troops after they were routed last year.

Many Kuwaitis have ignored repeated government calls over the past year for the surrender of the arms.

Social workers and government officials report a 48 per cent jump in crime, blaming this on the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Violence was also discussed on Tuesday at a secret session of the partially-elected National Council.

Council member Abdul Karim Al Juhaidi had angrily asked the interior minister to resign, charging he was unfit for the job.

A council statement called on the government to take steps to improve security and implement "speedy and decisive measures to collect arms and ammunition left behind by the Iraqi forces."

Western diplomats say the government was concerned that violence might increase with the approach of the country's first general elections for six years due in October.

"The tradition in this country has been to settle political differences peacefully. Now the government is worried that might change because of the huge amounts of weapons in the hands of the people," one diplomat said.

Ethiopia announces regional elections

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's new rulers said they would hold regional elections in 14 newly-created regions under a bold new scheme to ease ethnic tensions in the long-divided country.

"We face tremendous logistical problems and our financial requirements have not been met," Election Commission Vice-President Dawit Johanneb told the diplomatic corps at a meeting also attended by journalists.

He appealed for \$8.5 million in aid to finance the elections in 14 newly-created regions under a bold new scheme to ease ethnic tensions in the long-divided country.

The transitional government needs to buy everything connected with the democratic process ignored by its predecessor under dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, overthrown one year ago.

The \$8.5 million would be used to buy everything from 33 million voters cards to 30,000 loud hailer's needed for political campaigning.

Federal-style governments will be set up by the elections as part of what political analysts see as the only way to satisfy ethnic demands and prevent a return to decades of guerrilla warfare that pushed Ethiopia to the brink of collapse.

Diplomats said polls were likely to be hampered by tensions between armed groups that have turned to bloodshed several times since the transitional government was formed 10 months ago.

Starvation threatening eight million people was also bound to affect the poll, they said.

Tensions between Ethiopia's 80 ethnic groups have already disrupted the election of local councils set up to disarm the population and establish police forces regional voting.

Worst-hit is the southeast of the country where factions representing the large Oromo tribe have blamed the northern-based Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which dominates the transitional government, of interfering with the local council elections.

Israeli planes destroy school in S. Lebanon

AIN BOUSWAR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli planes destroyed a school and wounded three pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas in their first air raid into South Lebanon in three months.

Security sources said the planes attacked three positions of the Islamic resistance, a resistance alliance led by Hezbollah, in Iqlim Al Toufah area about 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Witnesses said the planes, firing rockets and dropping bombs with time delay fuses which exploded long after the raid, destroyed a schoolhouse before dawn in the village of 'Ain Bouswar.

At least three Hezbollah militants were wounded when the planes attacked their position in the village of Louweizeh, just outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, the witnesses added.

The Israeli army said its planes had damaged Hezbollah "targets" before returning safely to base.

Nearly four hours after the raid, at least three explosions, believed caused by delayed action bombs dropped by the raiding planes, rocked the targeted areas.

Reporters saw smoke billowing from the scene after the blasts. Before the planes attacked, guerrilla positions in the province fired two volleys of Katyusha rockets into the "security zone," near the town of Aishiyeh, causing no casualties or serious damage, police said.

It was not clear whether the air raid was a retaliation for the Katyusha barrage.

In Beirut, Hezbollah refused to comment on the Katyusha attacks but said there were no casualties among Shiite guerrillas from the Israeli air raid.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran, Australia study mining cooperation

NICOSIA (AP) — Gareth Evans, Australian minister for foreign affairs and trade, said Tuesday that his nation is ready to help build factories in Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency said Mr. Evans made the statement during a meeting with the minister of mines and metals, Mohammad Hussein Mahlouji, before winding up a two-day visit to Tehran. Mr. Evans said Australia could help build cement factories, a zinc refinery and a smelting plant in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, the agency reported. He added his country is interested in cooperating with Iran on mine projects, including exploration of the Mowtah gold mines in Isfahan province. For his part Mr. Mahlouji invited Australian companies to make joint investments with Iran in iron ore exploitation, and in expanding the capacity of the copper industry to 300,000 tons. On Tuesday, Mr. Evans met in Tehran with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of Reconstruction Gholamreza Forouzesh. When he arrived on Monday, Mr. Evans gave his government's official apology for an attack on Tehran's embassy in Canberra by an Iranian dissident group.

Minor quake hits northern Turkey

HAVZA, Turkey (AP) — An earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale hit the Black Sea province of samsun on Wednesday, the Anatolia news agency reported. The quake, which was centered 40 kilometres away in Amasya province, did not cause any damage, the agency said. Officials of the Kandilli observatory in Istanbul said the quake struck at 2:30 a.m. (0330 GMT) Wednesday, the news agency said. The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. A quake of magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage.

Plot to bomb Addis Ababa airport foiled

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia said on Wednesday police foiled an attempt by a hired ex-serviceman to blow up Addis Ababa airport. Official radio reported that Mustafa Abdurrahman was arrested with explosives he intended to use to blow up the capital's airport and its fuel dump. It said he had been hired by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromo, one of six organisations which represents the Oromo people, Ethiopia's largest tribe. It holds three seats in the 57-member National Assembly of the transitional government which took power when dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam was toppled one year ago. The government is dominated by the northern-based Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Front.

Taxman killed in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (R) — Two gunmen killed a tax collector outside his Istanbul home on Wednesday, Turkey's deadliest leftist guerrilla group said it was responsible, claiming the victim was a plainclothes policeman, Anatolian news agency said. Kenan Karahan, 37, was shot in the head inside his car in the Sefakoy district. The assailants fled.

Many Iraqi birds, animals in danger of extinction

BAGHDAD (R) — Many species of birds and animals in Iraq are under threat of extinction as a result of warfare, industrialisation and overhunting, a government official says.

Civil war in the Kurdish north, the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and the Gulf war made the government neglect wildlife.

"We have to move, and move quickly," said Dr. Abdel Abdullah, director-general of the Environment Protection Centre (EPC). "Otherwise, there will be no wildlife here within a short period of time."

Dr. Abdullah says aquatic birds are at risk. The building of farms and industrial installations in Tikrit and Beiji, north of Baghdad, has forced once-plentiful ducks to flee.

"The area was a breeding ground. Ploughs of tractors, cranes, bulldozers and trucks invaded their habitat," Dr. Abdullah said.

Overhunting by marsh Arabs in the south is threatening wild geese which used to be common there. They use nets to catch thousands which they sell in Baghdad and other cities, he said.

Iraq has issued laws to protect species, but the EPC has little power to enforce them. The government has planned so-called "wildlife preservation centres," where threatened animals and birds will be cared for.

"The use of nets, automatic rifles, poison or cars to kill animals and birds is forbidden by law, but who could supervise the ex-

tensive marshlands?" Dr. Abdullah said.

He said hunting had caused a drop in breeding by eagles and falcons. "The white-tailed sea eagle is no longer to be found in Iraq, and the peregrine falcon will soon be extinct as it is being hunted in a crazy manner and sold at high prices."

Sparrows and pigeons are the only two kinds of birds which do not need protection in Iraq, said Faris George, an EPC official.

Dr. George has a long list of animal species which he says will perish if authorities do not act immediately to protect them.

The fox and the stone marten, hunted for their fur in several parts of Iraq, are among the endangered species.

The brown bear may have died out already. "It was found in good numbers in the 1950s in the north, but I believe there may be no more," Dr. George said.

The gazelle is another threatened species. Poachers used what Dr. George described as "vicious hunting methods employing, among other things, automatic rifles."

A 1989 law places a fine of 5,000 dinars (\$16,000 at the official rate) and a jail term of at least one month on gazelle hunters, but EPC officials believe without strict enforcement little could be done to save the animal.

Only the wild boar is available in fair numbers. "Muslims abhor the animal. Islam forbids followers eating its meat," Dr. George said.

Sudan — terrorist haven or propaganda victim?

By Paul Eedle
Reuters

KHARTOUM — If you believe Western officials, Sudan has become a safe haven for Islamic terrorists intent on undermining Western interests from deepest Africa to the oilfields of the Gulf.

If you believe the Muslim militants who have taken power in Khartoum since a military coup three years ago, Sudan is a victim of propaganda by Western powers which regard Islam as a threat to their neo-colonial influence.

Hard facts to establish the truth are rare in this isolated, poverty-stricken city where telephones work intermittently, newspapers and television are strictly controlled and the security service is all-pervasive. Passion prejudice and fear distort words and thoughts.

Western diplomats say they have fragmentary but compelling evidence that members of a wide range of groups they regard as terrorist have been passing through Sudan.

"What we see is blips on a screen," one senior envoy said. "What impressed us ... was

that suddenly after the Gulf war (in early 1991) these people seemed to be turning up here."

He said groups detected included Lebanon's Hizbollah and Islamic Jihad, both sponsored by Iran and suspected of involvement in taking of Western hostages. Abu Nidal's mercenaries, who have been associated with both Libya and Iraq and Islamic extremists from Egypt.

"The best description is they use this as a safe haven," the diplomat said, adding that reports of training camps in the desert were probably fanciful but the groups could use Khartoum as a safe place to rest or a convenient point to contact sponsors or trainers.

Sudan supported Iraq against a U.S.-led coalition of Western and Arab states in the Gulf war. It provoked Western suspicion and anger just before fighting broke out by releasing five Abu Nidal men jailed for bomb attacks which killed five Britons in 1988.

The diplomat said Iran's Revolutionary Guards had been supplying and training Sudan's Popular Defence Force, which

the government has been building to supplement the regular army and instill an activist spirit into their young men.

He added that the Iranian ambassador in Khartoum had been stationed in Beirut in 1983 when the Iranian mission there was suspected of helping to organise a suicide bombing that killed 241 U.S. marines. Hassan Tourabi, the learned and witty lawyer who leads the militants, and officials in both the government and the armed forces deny Western charges of links with terrorism.

"There is absolutely no basis to most of their allegations, no basis of truth and it is just that they believe anything because they don't have a background to judge new information," Mr. Tourabi said in an interview. "They are so ignorant of this part of the world and of Islam itself."

The spokesman for the armed forces, General Mohammed Abdullah Aweida, said: "America and France and the Arab World and the West know that there is not even one Iranian in the Sudanese armed forces. That is propaganda."

There is no doubt, however,

that the militants have established close links with radicals all over the world and have cultivated an ever-closer friendship with the revolutionary Islamic government in Iran.

Mr. Tourabi is proud to explain that Sudan has become "a focus of interest for all Islamic movements" and "we know virtually all the workers for Islam in the world, in the West, in Asia, in Africa, the Arab World."

Sudan and Iran have announced a \$300 million a year trade deal under which Tehran will supply 25,000 barrels a day of crude oil in return for livestock and meat.

Iranian revolutionary organisations have set up high-profile operations in Khartoum, such as the Martyrs' Foundation's large "Seal of the Prophets" medical centre. Businessmen reports seeing Iranians in uniform staying at a luxury hotel recently.

There is also no doubt that Sudanese support for Islamic activists in other countries has included providing a passport to Rached Ghannouchi,

whose Nahda movement in Tunisia has accused by the government of plotting a coup last year and ruthlessly dismantled by security forces.

Irritated Western diplomats confirmed that the British embassy in Khartoum unwittingly issued Mr. Ghannouchi a visa after he applied using a Sudanese diplomatic passport with a misleading version of his name, supported by a letter from the Sudanese government.

At heart, the truth may be a question of definition. One person's terrorist is another's freedom fighter, and Mr. Tourabi is careful to explain that there are circumstances under which Muslims "are entitled to use force against force."

He says he understands what he calls the excesses of the Iranian revolution and observes: "Now most Islamic movements have been radicalised a little bit by political persecution."

So perhaps the safe haven for terrorists and the victim of propaganda may be the same place. It depends who's talking.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TITLES	
18:00	Doc: "Succubus Sauvages"
18:30	Magry
19:00	News in French
19:15	Le Cirque
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Simpsons
21:00	UEFA Cup Final
21:10	News in English
22:00	Movie of the Week: "White Lie"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:06	Fajr
05:35	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:52	Dhuhr
16:12	"Asr
18:29	Maghrib
20:57	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623341	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assamen International Church Tel. 827981, 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 817285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824 and 645322	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675591	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and windy will be moderately moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Amman	Min./max. temp. 13 / 29
Agaba	20 / 35
Deserts	14 / 32
Jordan Valley	15 / 35

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Salman Al Duboshi	776751
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboon	783708
Dr. Fawaz Woor	786880
Dr. Ghaleb Zewaidh	736122
Al Selam pharmacy	636730
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637025
Natroukh pharmacy	623072
Al Selam pharmacy	636730
Yusuf pharmacy	644945
Shameel pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	843945
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	010230
Repairs	625101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jord a	774111
ZARQA:	
Dr. Yousef Awad	985417
Khalifah pharmacy	985417
HOSPITALS	
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (02)5201-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
04:15	Sanaa (RJ)
04:30	Riyadh (RJ)
04:45	Agaba (RJ)
05:00	Cairo (RJ)
05:15	New Delhi (RJ)
05:30	Amman (RJ)
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19:45	Amman (RJ)

Crown Prince stresses cooperation with China

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday said that Jordan attached great importance to the development of its ties with China in the political and economic fields, stressing the importance of continued consultations between the two countries.

The Crown Prince was speaking at a meeting held at the Royal Court with visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fu Chang who outlined his country's support for Jordan's endeavours in the political and economic fields.

The Crown Prince, who received from Mr. Yang a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from the Chinese president, laid stress to the importance of continued cooperation among the countries of Asia towards building up a world order where justice can prevail. Prince Hassan outlined to the guest the general economic situation in the Kingdom which, he said, has been affected by the general conditions prevailing in the Middle East region.

Mr. Yang voiced China's support for the right of each nation to choose its own political system and expressed his country's support for Jordan's balanced and moderate policies. Mr. Yang called for more intensification of the on-going dialogues between his country and the Arab World.

Mr. Yang and his accompanying delegation earlier held a meeting with members of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. Dr. Hosni Shiyab, the committee's chairman, outlined the Jordanian Parliament's various activities and development as well as the on-going democratic process in the Kingdom.

Dr. Shiyab also spoke about the ordeal of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Educational project to cost an estimated JD160 million

AMMAN (Petra) — The current national effort to overhaul the educational system in Jordan is to cost an estimated JD160 million in the first four-year stage which started in 1990, according to Director of the National Centre for Educational Research and Development Victor Al Billeh.

Unlike the previous programmes to develop education, this project, which will take ten years to complete, entails comprehensive changes that affect all aspects related to education at the various school levels, Dr. Billeh noted.

The Jordanian government is being helped to carry out this immense task by the World Bank, the Japanese Economic Cooperation Fund and also by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), he said.

In the course of implementing this project, Dr. Billeh pointed out, the government has been carrying out three main programmes to provide appropriate skills and qualifications to around 29,000 community college graduates, helping them to acquire the first university degree, and up to 4,000 university graduates to give them teaching skills and training.

Dr. Billeh said that in addition, 45,000 teachers are to have on-the-job training, particularly those university graduates who will teach at the elementary level. According to Dr. Billeh, the education facilities at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk and Muta University will be developed to turn out up to 2,000 qualified teachers annually.

In addition to training teachers, the comprehensive educational overhauling process entails building schools to cope with the ever increasing number of students and to dispose of rented buildings.



Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah

Patriarch commends King's restoration efforts in Holy City

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Roman Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel Sabbah Wednesday described His Majesty King Hussein's announcement of plans for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem as a continued effort on the part of the Hashemite family to safeguard the holy places in Palestine.

The Hashemite family has played a leading role since the downfall of the Ottoman rule in the course of safeguarding Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and has been directly responsible for the holy shrines in the city, said the patriarch in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The King's new endeavour is part of a long series of efforts exerted by the Hashemite family towards safeguarding the Islamic holy places, the patriarch added.

On Monday, the King announced at a meeting with the heads of Islamic and Christian communities and religious leaders from the occupied territories that Jordan was undertaking a programme for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock. Later in a message to the head of the committee charged with the restoration work, the King announced that he was donating \$8.25 million of his own funds and those of the Hashemite family towards the restoration programme.

The patriarch expressed hope that this gesture would contribute to uniting the hearts and the efforts of people at a time when the Arab nation was going through a crucial stage which cannot tolerate any divisions.

The patriarch expressed hope that the Muslims would unite and that Arabs would regain their united action in the course of attaining further progress. He also hoped that the Palestinian people's problem would be settled justly and comprehensively.

Ministry releases poverty study

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study prepared by the Ministry of Social Development has found that three per cent of the Jordanian families live in abject poverty and that 25 per cent of the rest are generally poor mainly due to unemployment, the big size of families and the disabilities of adult family members.

The study released Wednesday said that poor families in Jordan fall into three categories as follows: First, those who are able to work but are not employed, second, those who work with limited income and are in need of more training to improve their skills and earn more income, while the third category includes those who are not able to work and earn income due to some kind of disability, with little prospect for rehabilitation and training.

According to the study, the poor families generally have low-level education with little or no vocational training in any trade or its members suffer from diseases or disabilities. In addition, the existing charitable and other organisations which care for the poor in Jordan are either insufficient in number or have very limited operations benefiting the poor, the study noted.

A study issued by the same ministry in October 1991 said that 20,000 families in the Kingdom lived in abject poverty and could have been classified as "starving groups had it not been for the help and trickle of aid reaching them from Jordanian charitable organisations."

The ministry's study confirmed an earlier survey conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which found that at least 33 per cent of Jordanians lived under the poverty line. The 1991 study said that the National Aid Fund, the Zakat Fund and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) were instrumental in providing for the families in the abject poverty category.

The National Aid Fund is said to be spending some JD 7 million annually to help meet the needs of the very poor families who receive up to JD 50 a month as they have no other source of income.

According to the study published Wednesday, there are 216,147 poor families in Amman of whom 1.1 per cent were found to be in abject poverty. In Zarqa, there are 79,000 poor families of whom 1.4 per cent are abject poor and in Irbid, there are 122,000 poor families of whom 1.7 per cent live in abject poverty. The study also gave a breakdown of figures about poor families in Mafrq who total more than 19,000, in Karak nearly 21,000, Tafleh, 7,000 families and Maan, 17,000 families.

Asked to give reasons for their poverty, one third of the poor population said it was mainly due to unemployment, 26 per cent said it was due to the big size of the family and 12.6 per cent said that it was due to disabilities and illnesses among family members.

The study also found that 54.2 per cent of the total number of families in Jordan have an average of 11.2 members, compared with a 7.2 average number of members in an average family.

Repair project causes debate among merchants, municipality

AMMAN — A project for the restoration and repair of Wasfi Al Tall Street — or the so-called Gardens Street — in western Amman has caused heated debate among merchants on the street and the Greater Amman Municipality, with the shop owners threatening a strike and other action.

Shop owners, main sufferers of the construction works, formed a committee consisting of two persons who visited the Greater Amman Municipality, and met Sultan Kheif, the deputy mayor, and complained about the speed with which the work is being carried out. The representatives felt that they did not receive the attention from the deputy mayor they felt was their due.

Imad Shakhateh, who was elected chairman of the committee told the Jordan Times: "The problem is now increasing because people here feel they should do something before they waste another summer. If we do not see immediate positive results, we will go on strike. We will close the road, close the shops and sit in outside the Prime Ministry. We will also invite foreign news agencies to report the situation."

Mr. Shakhateh said that last summer a construction for rain drainage which was supposed to be finished in two months lasted for four months, affected business adversely, because the summer season is the time they rely on for business. The bad winter that the country faced added to the problems. These constructions now are increasing the seriousness of the situation.

The fear of losing the summer season was also expressed by a furniture shop owner. He said, "We spent the whole winter preparing for the summer — which means freezing substantial sums of money in the form of furniture — awaiting the summer which is our high season."

A photography shop owner added, on the same lines, "People are not going to walk amidst this bomb-site to reach my shop." He opened his shop three years ago and his income has dropped to one quarter of what it was. He said, "Our overheads are very high, and the summer is vital to us."

On the same street, a cafeteria which used to remain open after midnight, now has to shut down around 8 p.m. The owner said, "I invested money in this cafeteria because it had potentials... but it has had nothing except disasters. My income has dropped drastically and I am losing all my savings."

Further problems like terminating services of workers and meeting bank loan interests were identified. The committee, however, foresees the solutions to be engaging more vehicles, workers and in constant supervision to the work in order to hasten it and finish it far more quickly. Mr. Zmeili, one of the businessmen in the street said, "The other side of the road could have been converted into a two way road to facilitate people's passage, and the municipality could, if it wished to make paths for pedestrians to reach the shops."

The general feeling was, however, that the municipality has bitten off more than it could chew, as Mr. Shakhateh explained, "The work should be round the clock and liaison with other relevant authorities should be at its highest levels in terms of using their vehicles, machinery, skilled workers etc... in order to finish the work quickly. We know that they have improved the work but it is just not enough."

Project engineer Fahad Al Omoush rationalised the whole situation. "Wasfi Al Tall road is situated in a valley and its soil is soft. Due to these two elements and despite continued remedial operations on this road — the problems have never been wholly solved. This project is tackling the problems once and for all — hence the immensity of the job."

He added, "Most of the installations in the street have problems e.g. electricity, water, sanitation etc... liaison between different relevant authorities is at its highest level."

On the question of working round the clock, engineer Mr. Omoush said that they are now doing two shifts — one from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the second from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. However, he pointed out that because of the nature of the street, and the fact that the digging must not cause any breakage in the already installed piping, greater care is needed, and it is often necessary for some delicate clearing jobs around manholes, for example, to be done manually and in day light.

We added that most of the clearing of the site takes place at night now. Later on, all the asphalt layering will take place at night. He added "We have enough vehicles on site and we cannot bring in any more because of the street restrictions in terms of its length and width. More vehicles will obstruct the work — there will be no place for them to move. Besides, the work is not even, in ten square metres there are about six manholes... believe me it is much quicker and easier to open a street in the desert than to do the work we are engaged in here at the moment."

An off-site exhibition for the Eid Al Adha season was suggested by engineer Mr. Omoush. He added: "Despite all that has been going on, we did not hear one positive alternative from the shop owners, that would help alleviate the problem."

Prime Ministry finalises labour law draft

AMMAN (Petra) — The Bureau for Legislation of Laws at the Prime Ministry has finalised a labour law draft which caters to the contemporary Jordanian social and economic situation and the various Arab and international agreements which were endorsed by Jordan, Labor Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti announced Wednesday.

The draft law will soon be submitted to the Council of Ministers for debate and endorsement in its final version before steps will be taken for the new law to go through its constitutional channels, said the minister.

According to the minister, the new law covers labour-related and socio-economic developments in Jordan not existing in the old law and has provisions for new types of workers and their rights and duties as well as their relations with their employers.

For example, the new law has provisions for agricultural workers, covers matters related to vocational training and provides protection for workers who suddenly become disabled, he noted.

The new law makes it imperative for industrial institutions to accept trainees and requires them to contribute to the cost of vocational training programmes which benefit workers who are later employed in various industries, the minister noted. He said that these institutions will have to contribute at the rate of one per cent of the total wages paid to its workers.

According to the new law, children under 15 years of age will not be allowed to be employed in any business and those under 17 years will not be employed in dangerous work, the minister noted.

With regard to women, the new law provides for paid maternity leave 10 weeks before and six weeks after delivery, the minister noted. He said working mother will have the right to take a one year leave without pay to look after her children, provided she does not work for another institution.

The law prohibits the employment of women in dangerous industries and offers working wives the right to leave without pay to accompany their husbands if transferred to another region, provided the leave does not exceed two years.

The minister said that the new law provides for regulations concerning the employment and dismissal of workers, end-of-work compensation and the creation of unions, among other important matters.

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European Film Festival to be held in Amman

AMMAN — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the fourth European Film Festival in Jordan will take place May 17 to 24, 1992 at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The exposure of the rich European culture through the films presented in the festival to the Jordanian audience will contribute to foster better understanding of people.

The festival will open on Sunday, May 17, at 8 p.m. Top films from eight of the European Community member states will be shown on this occasion, as follows:

Date	Film	Country
May 17	Henry V	United Kingdom
May 18	Home Murders	Belgium
May 19	Der Bruch	Germany
May 20	To Rembetiko	Greece
May 21	El Caberota	Spain
May 22	Le Petit Criminel	France
May 23	Lo Zio Indago	Italy
May 24	Elle Vere	Netherlands

Tickets are available free to the general public one day in advance of each presentation.



RJ GRADUATES HOSTESSES — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, Wednesday graduated 19 new hostesses, the second batch of its kind in a number of weeks. According to an RJ statement, 19 of the graduates were from Yugoslavia. It said that the trainees received seven-week training courses on services to passengers on board RJ flights. At present, a total of 10 Jordanian and nine Irish women are receiving training courses as hostesses and 13 crew members employed by Gulf Air are due here today to take up training courses with RJ, the statement added. RJ Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Jamal Balqa, who attended the graduation ceremony, presented the new hostesses with their diplomas.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Exhibition of seven artists from the occupied territories — Tayseer Barakat, Salehman Mansour, Nabil Anani, Vera Tamsari, Jawad Al Mafdi, Ya'qub Al Kurd and Khalil Rahab — at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 - ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hazem Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
 - ★ Art exhibition of Iraqi artist Ali Al Mamlawi's works, inspired by poems of the great Arab poet Abdul Wahab Al Bayati, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Zaid at Alla Art Gallery.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Lawleh.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rida Elm Hus at the French Cultural Centre.
- FASHION**
- ★ Fashion show organised by Jaffa Society at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.
- TRIP**
- ★ Field trip organized by the Friends of Archaeology Society to Mawakeh and Umm Al Rassa. Departure Friday from Amara Hotel at 9 a.m.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Hindawi to act as prime minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thougan Al Hindawi will be acting prime minister while Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker is abroad, according to a communiqué issued by Sharif Zeid is currently accompanying His Majesty King Hussein who is on a visit to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

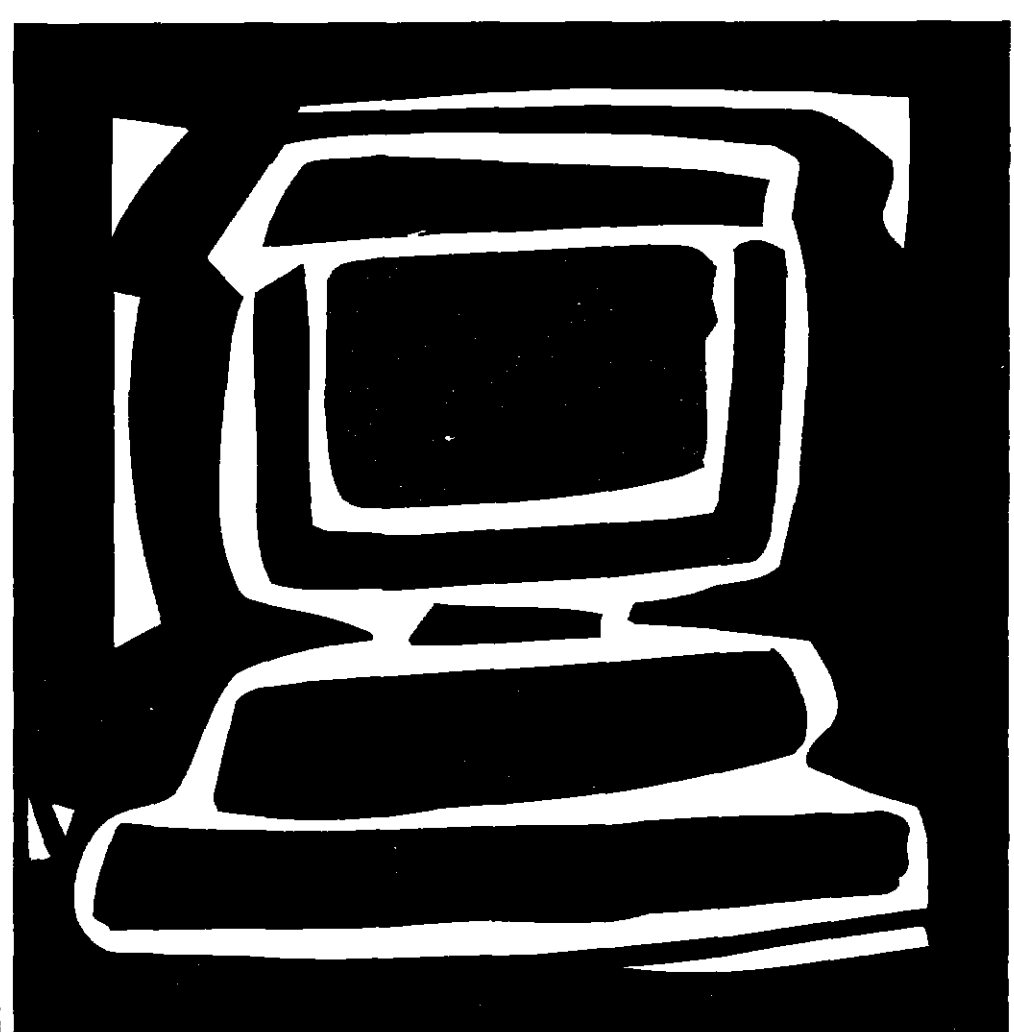
Jordan takes part in NAM meeting

INDONESIA (Petra) — Jordan and 38 other countries are participating in a meeting by the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) member-states' foreign ministers which started Wednesday. Jordan's delegation to the meeting, which will discuss ways of activating NAM's role, is headed by Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber. The ministers participating in the meeting will prepare Thursday and Friday the agenda of the movement's summit which will be held in Jakarta in September.

Princess opens charity bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, Her Highness Princess Nafa'a opened Wednesday at the Royal Cultural Centre a charity bazaar organised by Al Amal Society. The nine-day bazaar, whose proceeds will benefit the physically handicapped, includes handicrafts, artificial flowers, ceramics and knitwear.

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Whereto now?

IT IS probably appropriate that the foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement are holding their two-day meetings in Bali, Indonesia. Bali is a touristic island more conducive to relaxation than to serious deliberations. Since the future of the 103-member movement is at best in serious doubt after the ending of the cold war era and the collapse of the communist order, the participants might well need a venue like Bali to swim before they fly and to think before they act. All the key players in the basically poor countries' club are fully aware of the implication of the new international order on their collective role in international politics. Foremost on the minds of the participants is of course the relevancy of NAM in contemporary world politics and where to go from this point onwards.

There have been proposals to merge NAM with the group of 77, a loosely held together group of underdeveloped countries, which is active within the U.N. system as spokesman for the cause of the less developed countries, since both grouping have essentially the same kind of membership and because henceforth the struggle in the international arena is projected to be between the countries of the North and the South. No agreement has emerged on this point and it remains to be seen whether the NAM summit scheduled to convene in Indonesia next September will endorse such a sensible suggestion. There is every reason to support such a reasonable idea that aims to pool the resources of the G-77 and NAM together under one umbrella since there is really nothing left politically to be non-aligned about. On the other hand, the competition if not the rivalry, between the haves and the have nots can be expected to be accentuated in the years to come since the gap between the poor and rich nations of the world is widening instead of decreasing in spite of repeated international targets to bridge the gap between the two categories.

There is a great deal that the non-industrial countries of the world can do to enhance their collective bargaining position vis-a-vis the industrial giants by attaining a higher degree of genuine cooperation and coordination among their ranks. This should be the primary concern of NAM-G-77 grouping in the future. The NAM summit in September therefore offers a rare occasion to correct the path of NAM in the light of the dramatic changes that occurred in the world in recent times and bring it in line with the new realities. Against this backdrop, the September summit could be a most critical meeting between the leaders of the movement in a bid to save their organisation from imminent collapse and irrelevancy. Every effort must be exerted to make sure that the maximum number of the movement's heads of state attend the approaching summit in order to deliver the message that they still hold their organisation and cause in high esteem and seriousness. Jordan is in a unique position to support such necessary transformation in the nature and direction as NAM and hopefully it will continue to be among the first governments endorsing such change.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday launched an attack on what it called certain Arab and Islamic countries which have done nothing to safeguard the holy places in the occupied territories but were satisfied by looking and watching Jordan performing, on behalf of the Islamic World, a religious duty towards these shrines. Despite the fact that the Arabs and Muslims have the duty to provide protection to these holy sites in Jerusalem, the Arab and Islamic World have been only issuing lip-service and giving empty promises without spending a single penny or taking one practical step towards restoring these places, the paper said. It said that the other rich Arabs and other Muslims who woke up to the fact that they have a religious duty after 50 years of slumber, have sent carpets through Israel to be used inside the Islamic shrines, but all these have been seized and are now lying idle in the Israeli military stores. Anyhow, the Palestinian people would never accept such a gift for their holy places coming through Israel which occupies the holy sites and the whole of holy Palestine, the paper continued. The other Arabs and Muslims, said the paper, should realise that Jerusalem is a holy place and not an oil field that can be bought or sold, and that it is a sacred spot for the Arab Christians and Muslims alike and can by no means fall under the hegemony from those enemies of Arabs and the enemies of the Islamic World.

IT SEEMS that the United States, one of the co-sponsors of the Arab-Israeli peace talks and the most influential party in the whole process, and one that holds much influence in the U.N. Security Council, has retreated from its declared position of working seriously towards achieving peace based on U.N. resolutions, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Wednesday. The paper said the U.S. behaviour and the statements of its senior officials contradict the letters of assurance issued by the U.S. administration to the Arab parties before the commencement of the peace process and they conflict with statements given by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during talks with Arab governments involved in the peace process. This retreat is manifested most prominently in Washington's call on the Palestinian delegation to refrain from raising the question of "the right of return" of Palestinians during the multilateral talks on refugees, said the daily. It said this call, which is of course rejected by the Arab side, is puzzling all the Arab parties and the Palestinian delegation because it is a call that contradicts with the Geneva conventions and conflicts with the international legitimacy. At the same time, the U.S. administration, which has been financing the migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian land, has been helping the Jewish state to build more settlements in the occupied Arab lands, said the paper. It said that instead of exercising economic and political pressure on Israel, to stop its settlement programmes, it is now trying to prevent the legitimate owners of Palestine from returning to their homeland.

National pride, defiance, helped Iraqis succeed in the huge endeavour of rebuilding

Iraq's after-war effort in reconstruction is probably unmatched in Middle East

The writer, who has been covering the Middle East for British and Indian magazines and newspapers for many years, has just ended a week-long visit to Iraq. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

By G.H. Jansen

Incredible as it may seem, a visit to Iraq 14 months after the Gulf war is a positively cheering experience. Because compared to the corruption of Saudi Arabia, the fecklessness of Kuwait, the sheer hopelessness of Lebanon and the surliness of Syria, Iraq shines like a good deed in a naughty world. Why so? Because, after being severely battered by the coalition airforces, left without light, water, petrol or telephones, bombed back to "the pre-industrial age," to quote one U.N. observer, Iraq has pulled itself up by its bootstraps so that 70 per cent of the infrastructure that the coalition destroyed has been repaired and got working again.

This huge effort of reconstruction could only have succeeded if all the people of Iraq, not just the government or the Baath Party, worked together and worked hard — which they did — three shifts a day, around the clock, by floodlights after dark. What inspired this surge of effort? Iraqi

national pride, Iraqi stubbornness and defiance: the whole country today is a shout of defiance against the U.S. that tried and failed to beat Iraq down into the dust.

The uplifting statistics go on and on. Just one example of the renovated road network is the new 551-kilometre, six-lane dual carriageway, immaculately surfaced, that runs from Baghdad to the Jordanian border; 120 of the 134 bridges destroyed have been reerected; electricity, down to 15 per cent of its full capacity at the end of the war, is now at 90 per cent of supply in Baghdad, where one quarter of Iraq's population lives; the crucial oil industry has reached three-quarters of its total capacity, and refining, once at three per cent of the pre-war level, because the refineries were repeatedly and heavily bombed, is now at two-thirds of its capacity; an abundance of cheap petrol has meant clogged traffic in the towns and the smuggling of cheap Iraqi petrol to neighbouring countries. The government ministries and offices, the schools and hospit-

als, have been rebuilt as have the four tall communications centres destroyed in the first night of the bombing, so that Iraq is once again in telephone and telex communication with the world, though telephone within Baghdad is patchy.

This massive rebuilding would not have been possible if the four main cement plants, badly smashed up, had not been restored. Overall, production is possible in 60 per cent of all plants and factories; but not in one: that which used to produce 100 million syringes a year, bombed as a "military target."

It is only because evidence is there, before one's eyes, that one can believe that so much could be done in so little time, especially that because of sanctions there was no importation of any raw materials, spare parts, new machinery or expertise from outside. The Iraqis could well adopt the Irish motto, "Sim Fein" — ourselves alone.

The political spin-off of victory in the battle of reconstruction is that the notoriously independent Iraqis are less inclined than ever to fall in line with foreign wishes or demands. Also, the mere fact that it is the U.S. and the U.K., inveterate enemies of

the Arabs, (Britain has never forgiven Iraq for nationalising the Iraq Petroleum Company in 1973, nor Nasser for nationalising the Suez Canal), who are telling the Iraqis and the world that Iraq will go on being punished through U.N. sanctions until they get rid of Saddam Hussein, by itself ensures that proposal will not be acted on. And even if they did so wish, the Iraqis are not prepared to face the tanks of an army that is privileged, loyal and experienced at suppressing internal dissidence. And this despite the fact that there is much criticism of the invasion and absorption of Kuwait and especially of Saddam Hussein's still mysterious refusal to withdraw, which would have pulled the rug out from under the U.S.-led coalition.

But, on the other hand, criticism of Saddam Hussein's handling of Kuwait is blunted by the fact that just about every Iraqi is firmly convinced, in principle, that Kuwait is an integral part of Iraq. So the invasion was "right" but tactically wrong. Just as they feel that he is "right" to stand up to the U.S. even though the defiance has brought on the punitive sanctions of the U.N., that is to say of the U.S.

And Iraq is certainly suffering because of these sanctions, particularly in the matter of health. Iraq is able to import only 20 per cent of the medicines it needs and one major result of this short-fall is that infant mortality has trebled. Anaesthetics are particularly in short supply. Dentistry is carried out without pain killers and so too the setting of broken bones. Only emergency operations are being performed and cancer patients are dying because they cannot be treated. The Iraqis are particularly angry with those Western pharmaceutical firms which, having received payments for drugs ordered before the crisis began, are refusing to export the drugs paid for, on the orders of their governments. With the return of Iraq's hot summer, the problems of water purification and sewage disposal will again become acute, and this could only be solved if specialised machinery and chemicals are rushed in.

It is argued that Iraq's sufferings could be eased if only it agreed to sell the \$1.6 billion worth of oil that the U.N. has generously allowed it. But the Iraqis refused to accept the terms on which the sales would be made, which they say are

humiliating and would put their major industry under U.N./U.S. control. It is outside monitors who would decide to whom and at what price Iraq may make its sales. In the first instance, the U.N. says, oil must be exported westwards through Turkey, even though Iraq would like to start by making sales to its eastern customers, India and Japan, through the Gulf. Then again, the distribution of food bought with the oil earnings is to be "monitored" by the outsiders, reducing Iraq to the status of a mandated country. This despite the fact that Iraq already has in place an efficiently working rationing system, which is what has staved off popular hunger as the skyrocketing prices of many foodstuffs put them beyond the range of ordinary wage earners.

Because of the hardship and suffering brought on by the prolongation of sanctions long after the end of hostilities, on the insistence of America and Britain, these two countries are now actively hated in Iraq. But not only in Iraq, and the feeling will not easily be dissipated. As for Russia, which during and after the war has been obediently following American orders, the Iraqis merely pity and despise.

Bush, congressional Democrats rush to outdo each other on urban relief

By Terence Hunt
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a round of finger-pointing and photo opportunities on Los Angeles' riot-scorched streets, President Bush and his Democratic opposition are rushing to outdo each other with warmed-over remedies for long-neglected urban problems.

Over three years, the administration and the Congress have been unable to agree on any blueprint for the cities. The scrambling for advantage in an election year makes the effort even more difficult. Both sides agree the explosion in Los Angeles makes it imperative to try. Moreover, America's disenchantment with incumbent politicians and the widespread unhappiness over gridlock in Washington could provide some momentum for action.

Both Mr. Bush and the Demo-

crats are struggling to leave the impression that they are taking the lead, stressing that urban revitalisation is a political and public-policy priority.

But neither side appears to be in the mood for compromise. "Los Angeles has awakened the entire country," House majority leader Dick Gephardt, a Democrat, declared Monday. "Now he can afford to slumber no longer."

Likewise, Mr. Bush, at a reelection fund-raiser in Philadelphia, insisted Congress stop stalling and adopt his prescription of urban remedies.

"We all know what the critics will say: 'You've proposed all this before, Mr. President.' And the answer is true, that's right," Mr. Bush said. "But now it is time to act on these proposals because this time they know we are right. ... It's no longer good enough to try the old ones."

Mr. Bush summoned congressional leaders to the White House Tuesday to discuss possible solutions. The Democrats tried to steal the show by holding a news conference to issue a four-page letter urging bipartisan support on a broad range of familiar domestic legislation.

The Democrats' list included urban enterprise zones, another extension of unemployment insurance, a \$3.6 billion increase in public works spending, crime legislation pending in the Senate and a housing bill that would raise spending on an administration programme encouraging public housing tenants to purchase their homes.

Enterprise zones, which would lure businesses to inner cities through tax breaks, also are the centerpiece of Mr. Bush's package. He recently vetoed the Democrats' bill that would have created enterprise zones because

it would have raised taxes on wealthy Americans.

Mr. Bush said his priorities also include reform of the welfare system, a new strategy for American schools and his tenant ownership proposal.

From time to time, the president has spoken up for urban initiatives such as enterprise zones for the most part he has ignored the subject.

Perhaps to encourage the Democrats to deal, the White House spoke warmly of the proposals they offered Monday.

"It sounds like the same programmes we've been proposing," presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Mr. Bush revamped his political visit to Philadelphia on Monday to include a tour of blighted neighbourhoods and a meeting with community leaders.

Top administration policymakers stayed home, hurriedly repackaging legislative initiatives

that have been proposed previously and exploring whether there are any new remedies that a deficit-strapped government can afford.

A majority of Americans — by a margin of 46 per cent to 41 per cent — are unhappy with the way Mr. Bush has responded to the Los Angeles riots, according to a New York Times-CBS news poll. Significantly, 53 per cent of all whites and 76 of all blacks registered disapproval with the way Mr. Bush is handling race relations in general.

Democrat Bill Clinton, the likely Democratic presidential nominee, said Mr. Bush has done little to address the basic social and economic problems of the cities. Mr. Bush blamed the riots on frustration created by failed social programmes of the 1960s and 1970s. Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush both toured the riot neighbourhoods.

Mr. Clinton promised "new ideas for the '90s" and "pulling the American people together across racial and gender and income and regional lines."

LETTERS

Complaints, complaints

To the Editor:

What is wrong with Jordan? Nothing serious, it just needs a new economy. Why? Well, if you don't know a way to find out it is to listen to what people say at street corners.

Most people have something to complain about, and not many are satisfied with what they have. It is really strange, but it seems that everybody is complaining about everything. It is rather funny, but to a certain extent, everybody is also complaining about everybody else. Here are some examples that will clarify what I mean:

The poor complain about not being rich; the rich complain about not being richer. The middle class complains about being a rare species that might disappear soon. While the poor and the middle class go on and on complaining about not being rich, they are getting poorer, and the gap between them and the rich is becoming bigger than the Grand Canyon.

On another front, shopkeepers complain about being bored to death waiting for customers; they complain that everything is on sale but no one is buying. Customers complain about not being able to buy much because of their low salaries. Actually, there isn't enough buying going on because one third of the working force is unemployed. And, naturally, the unemployed complain about being unemployed while business owners complain about keeping many employees they really want to fire.

The situation is so hopeless that it is hard for anyone to ignore all the sadness, anger, and hatred in the air. The unfortunate feel betrayed and deserted, and the fortunate are, for the most part, aloof and numb. Sometimes it feels as if the whole country is in despair and people are living not because they want to live, but because they are afraid of dying.

It seems that no one is happy anymore, except for a few alienated disc jockeys on our FM service who constantly play love songs from the movie "Grease."

So, what should we do? I think the first thing we should do is to stop all the complaining because complaining will not make the economy any better. Second, maybe we should lower our expectations and teach ourselves how to live with these hard times. We must learn to let go of the past, and live in the present. So, please be patient and please do not give up. Otherwise, the only thing that this country will be famous for will be the chronic depression of the majority of its citizens.

Ayman Yasin,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

NATO could find new role as Europe's peace-keeper

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

BRUSSELS — NATO has its eye on a role that until now has been the preserve of the United Nations and could soon become Europe's peace-keeper.

At a meeting in Oslo next month, foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation may agree to offer the alliance's military expertise and even troops for peace-keeping operations beyond its borders.

Fighting in Yugoslavia and Nagorno-Karabakh and the threat of new conflicts in a fragmenting post-cold war Europe have given impetus to the idea, which would be an important policy change for NATO.

Alliance officials and diplomats say it is highly controversial and agreement on the issue will be difficult.

Several countries are worried they could be embroiled in far-flung conflicts, and there are debates inside the alliance about which institutions are best suited for the role.

Not everyone believes it is a job for NATO.

Nevertheless, the idea has won much support and diplomats say it appears to be gaining momentum.

The Netherlands, backed by the United States, Britain and NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, suggested earlier this year putting NATO assets at the disposal of the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The CSCE, a forum for discus-

sing security issues that links all European countries, the United States and Canada, has no armed forces of its own and no power to enforce decisions.

"Many of us believe that we must do this if NATO is to maintain public support," one diplomat said. "People are not going to pay for a security organisation that is perceived as washing its hands of responsibility."

Set up in 1949 to face a Soviet threat that has now evaporated, NATO is limited to the defence of its 16 member countries.

It is slimming down its military muscle, replacing massed divisions in Central Europe with "rapid reaction forces" which it says are needed to face potential new threats.

The question is what to do with the forces if no new threats materialise. Peace-keeping could be one answer.

The proposal, discussed by alliance ambassadors last week, limits NATO to offering its expertise in peace-keeping. No country has suggested that NATO should get directly involved in conflicts outside its borders, such as the Gulf war.

The United States, anxious to maintain its influence in Europe through continued leadership of NATO, argues that the alliance must change the rules that prevent it from operating outside its territory.

Many Eastern European countries that were once enemies — including Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland — also want NATO to play a bigger role. They are disappointed that the alliance has refused to offer them membership of security guarantees.

Washington and its supporters say NATO could, in this way, take some of the financial burden from the United Nations, which has been forced to mount costly peace-keeping operations in Yugoslavia and Cambodia.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek has said such operations rarely require more than 15,000 troops, which would not undermine NATO's main task, the defence of its members.

Some allies are nervous at the idea of committing troops, even as peace-keepers, to distant countries under the NATO flag. They are worried that such a move

would be prelude to making the alliance an enforcer, a kind of "Eurocop."

France, often at odds with its allies, has said it does not oppose the idea in principle but NATO diplomats said Paris had so many detailed objections to the idea that it was clearly the strongest opponent of the plan.

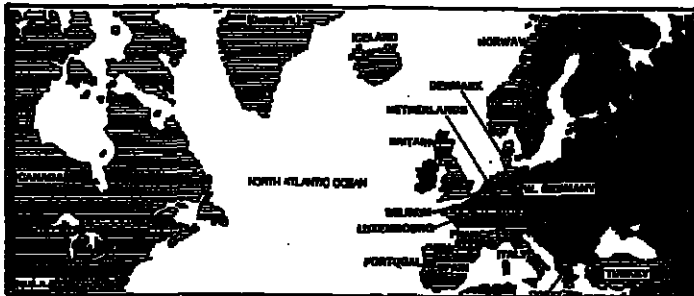
France, which would prefer to develop European institutions and does not want to see NATO's role extended, has suggested that the alliance's founding treaty might have to be renegotiated to allow such peace-keeping missions.

France would prefer to give the CSCE a stronger legal framework, including a formal "security treaty" among its members. Germany backs this and would like to see the CSCE have its own peace-keeping forces, like the U.N.'s "blue helmets."

France is also concerned that such a role for NATO could undermine plans to create a more independent European defence role through the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU).

Washington has been suspicious of that idea and NATO diplomats said France and some other countries suspected the peace-keeping initiative was little more than an attempt to continue U.S. dominance in security affairs.

"There a lot of mutual mistrust, a lot of suspicion here. It will take some time to sort through" said one official. "We may be given a new mission in Oslo — but I wouldn't bet on it."



Weekender

May 14, 1992

Published Every Thursday

A city of survivors

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Some might say that Foua is pursued by fate. This city of 150,000 located north of Cairo on the left bank of the Nile has had to deploy endless inventive resources to overcome challenges brought on by a changing physical and cultural environment. In 1992 it stands as a winner and is the centre of an unusual economic and social experiment carried by many communities.

Once a harbour, boasting a 132-foot lighthouse well-recognised by sailors of the antiquity, the city was well-hidden among palm tree groves by the year 1100, when writers place it 18 kilometres from the sea. Today the sea is 30 kilometres away. The commercial harbour apparently continued to operate over a long period through the river route, but little by little Foua became a city of craftsmen, looms replacing boats, and weavers sailors. The city also specialised in making "moucharabieh" — the latticed screens protecting windows from the sun — and household copperware much prized by antique lovers today.

In the early 19th century Mohamed Ali launched another craft in Foua: the production of the "tarabich" — red-wool hand-crafted hats that were a trademark of the Turkish army. These crafts made Foua rich, until the days when fashion changed: Venetian blinds and shutters made the moucharabieh outdated, and in the trossau of the young country bride, copper pots were replaced by aluminium kitchenware. Meanwhile, since the 1952 revolution Egyptians no longer wear the tarabich.

The community's strong instinct for survival again played a decisive role in helping it adapt to a new environment. Taking advantage of the abundance of wool harvested in the area, craftsmen turned to new activities based on traditional skills, launching the production of unique rugs (called kilim) and of woollen blankets. Natural colours vary from black to white, with a wide range of brown in between. Particularly skilled craftsmen also experimented with the weaving of very fine, multi-coloured material called "gobelin."

led "gobelin."

Within the last decades the number of looms jumped from several to 10,000 all manually operated, making Foua the first Egyptian city for this type of activity. The drawback of blossoming production could have been market saturation, and the single focus made the community vulnerable to market variations, but Foua found a way to minimise these new challenges. Some of its citizens, encouraged by Abdel Fatah Badri, a member of parliament, organised the local industry as a type of cooperative or cartel.

"Production had reached 720,000 square yards per month," noted Mahmoud Chiha, a local resident. "It was more and more difficult to sell all of it without reducing already low prices. Things could have gone badly for Foua, which was on the verge of one of the cyclic recessions that seem to be inscribed in its destiny." The cooperative experiment is aimed at lowering the risks of bankruptcy for cooperative members and at providing them with financial and commercial aid. Although at odds with the eminently individualistic streak Egyptians often display, the system has set an example and is presented as a model for other communities. "Our craftsmen used to work on their own, fiercely independent," Mahmoud Chiha said. "Foua had about 70 workshops, 50 of which represented a total of about 2,000 looms, but 8,000 looms were operated individually by people working alone or small family units operating 3 or 4 looms. It had become urgent to set up an organisation to represent all these craftsmen and to help them find new markets abroad. A better distribution is essential for a craft that has become an industry because of sheer volume."

Besides the gobelins, sheer works of art which require boundless patience — weavers produce an average of 1.6 square inches per day — and are already known internationally, Foua's other crafts should easily find outlets in Europe, the U.S. and Asia. "An isolated craftsman is cut off from the rest of the world," said Ahmad Al Badri, a cousin of MP Abdel Fatah Al Badri. "Whereas

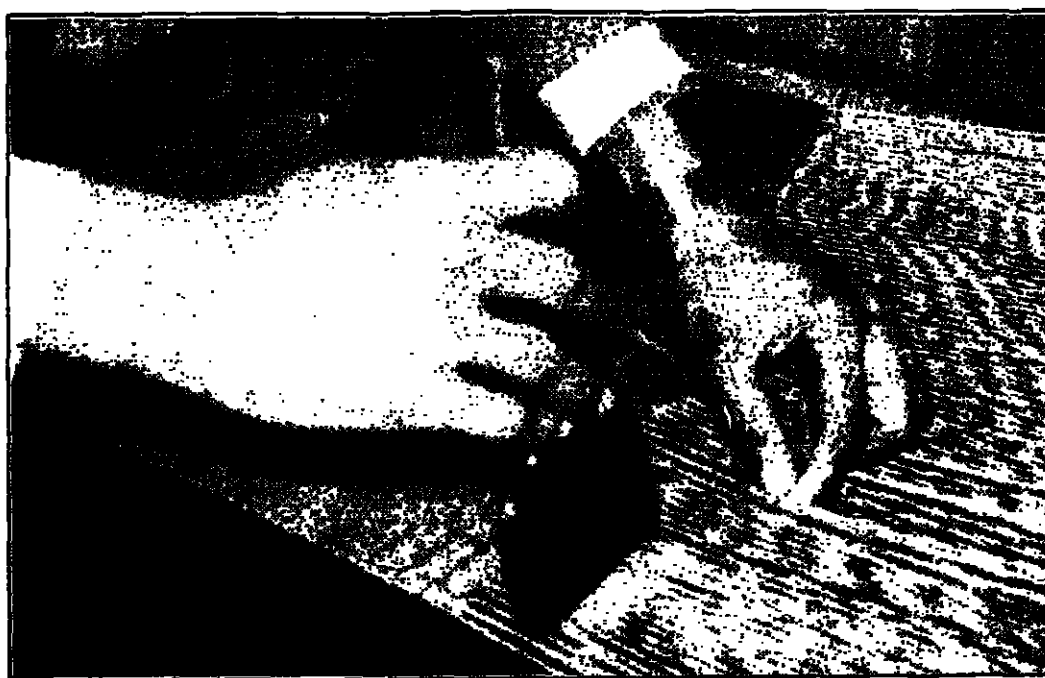
our cooperative will be in contact with the main foreign markets. It has already initiated contacts, though the cooperative wasn't officially created until March 5, 1992." He and Mahmoud Chiha are the driving force behind Foua's latest experiment.

A chemical engineer and landowner, Mahmoud Chiha speaks German fluently and, during a recent business trip to Hannover, he presented Foua's handicrafts to European buyers. "The orders put in by Germans encouraged us a lot," he said. "Our prices are unbeatable, so it's not difficult to win them over."

Another worry for the cooperative is to improve working conditions for hundreds of craftsmen whose looms are set up in damp cellars with poor ventilation. "We even thought about regrouping weavers so that they would share a large workshop, but they objected because they are worried that each man's particular technique and improvements would be copied," Mahmoud Chiha said. "There was a danger that working together would, over a period of time, bring uniformity to the production."

Indeed, Foua's varied production that mirrors each craftsman's style and personality is a specialty that should be carefully preserved. "The creative process lost its originality, it would be a major disaster," Ahmad Al Badri pointed out, displaying photos of about 400 rugs totally different in colour, design and shape, some with traditional designs, others influenced by cubism and modern art. "Some artists even refuse to have their work photographed because they are afraid that designs will be copied," Mr. Chiha commented. "They deal directly with customers."

At the moment, "The Swiss seem particularly interested in our products because these are natural," he added. "Woven with pure sheep wool, our rugs don't cause allergies like artificial fibres. And again, people get value at a low cost." Prices for a square yard of kilim rug range from \$3.5 to \$12. "The cooperative conducts surveys



Ahmad Ragab of Foua works on one of the 10,000 manually operated looms from which come wool rugs called kilim and blankets.

of the national and international markets and makes recommendations for prices." Mr. Chiha said. "Given that strength comes in numbers, the cooperative also sets the buying price for wool, the raw material that all the workshops need."

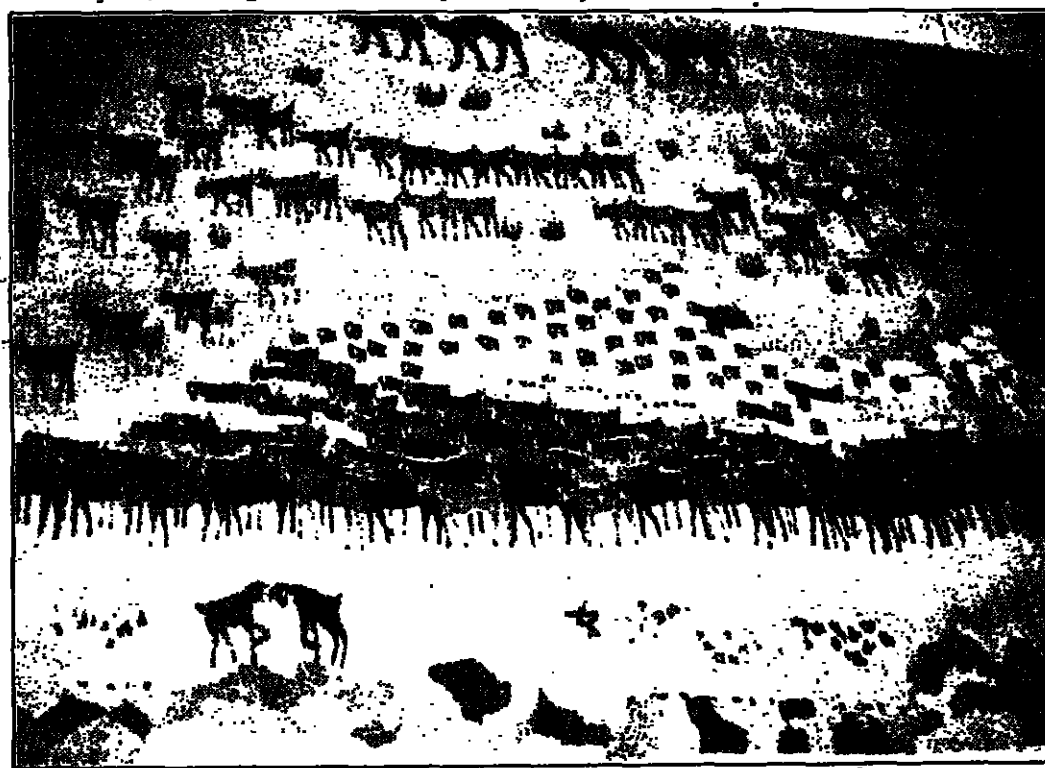
Wool is bought from the slaughterhouse or sheep breeders. It is then carded and spun at local mills, and local dyers give different hues to the yarn. Each workshop has its favourite colours and sends specific orders to dyers. Some work only with natural-colour yarn, weaving tradi-

tional pieces which are known throughout Egypt, although few are aware that they come from Foua. "We hope that in the future Foua's kilim rugs will be as valued abroad as they are in Egypt," Mr. Badri said, noting that under the patronage of Culture Minister Farouk Hosni, the Egyptian Academy in Rome is planning an exhibit.

The cooperative shows no lack of ambition. "We want our products to be displayed on a continuous basis at airports, in the finest hotels and in duty free shops," Mr. Chiha explains. "Exposure is

essential." Neither Ahmad Al Badri, a dermatologist by trade, nor Mahmoud Chiha have a personal stake in this venture. The cooperative they set up is designed to serve the community and make it prosper. "I love Foua," Mr. Chiha confided. "It's a strong-willed city which is worth caring about."

"Foua managed to survive the trials of time thanks to its citizens," commented Ahmad Al Badri. "We merely took on responsibilities to the best of our ability" — World News Link.



Each kilim is a unique product of the craftsman's skill and personality

Russia's media — first the bad news, then some more

By James Flannery
Reuters

MOSCOW — First the bad news, then not much else. That's the Russian media today after decades of state-controlled "good" news and little else.

The near-pathological secrecy that gripped Russia under communism has disappeared and the country is moving down the road to democracy and an open society.

Russians revel in no-punch-pulled news after two generations of "gloriously-fulfilled" economic plans, now proved to have been illusory.

Nightly, Moscow's main TV newspaper reels off a catalogue of misery and setbacks.

At the end, she smiles apologetically and says: "Now a little bit of good news." Then follows word from far-off that pop-star Madonna, say, has signed a multi-million dollar deal.

Even the astrologers prefer the gloomy side, in contrast with Western writers on what-the-stars-say who emphasise good times for romance and when to seek a pay rise.

"Abstain from sexual contacts and operations on sex-

ual organs and the rectum," was a typical day's advice from astrologer Lyudmila Filipova, in a recent issue of the weekly Moscow Life.

She added helpfully: "Do not have any injections or operations on moles. Avoid bruises and blows to bones. Avoid stress, horror films, don't take liquor or spicy food. Do not visit healers."

Have-a-nice-day some other time? Forget it. The following day: "Avoid difficulties and matters you can not cope with. Brush aside base designs and do not give in to illusions. A good day for fasting. Abstain from meat and fish. Limit loads on the hips, do not sit for too long."

If you took all that advice and felt like living another day, there was this formula for the next 24 hours: "Expect aggravation of haemorrhoids — the illness of the greedy."

And in what sounded like a code for staying in bed: "Don't rack your brains too much. Avoid bright light. Do not overdo movies or TV."

Russia's mass-selling "sensationalist" daily Kuranti (Kremlin Clock) is pretty tame stuff by Western standards. The main front-page story is banner headlined, but it's all about economic statistics.

The centre-fold story is a

little spicier — a male convict marries a woman convict in prison. With pictures. Details of the courtship are vague.

A hypnotist helps women to revive their husband's flagging sex drive. And a movie actress tells all in her memoirs.

Russian newspaper readers like weird tales. A favourite is sightings of flying saucers with little green men from Mars.

There's a "spiritual" newspaper sold by white-robed women in the underground railway stations which professes to reveal, nearly, where to find Jesus Christ's mother, Mary, who is apparently alive and well somewhere out of town.

Moskovskaya Pravda leads with a story on rising energy prices. There's a front-page poll: "Does Russia need the monarchy restored?" Against were 66 per cent of readers, while 12.7 per cent favoured bringing back the tsars.

As the capital's papers circulate nationally, you can also buy dailies with titles like rural life containing epics of pig production.

True, the trade union daily, had a sizzling tale — about a woman ex-secret agent whose career in seducing Western businessmen and diplomats for information was eventually wrecked by the

end of the cold war. She found herself ostracised as a "slut."

But the story was on the back page — strikes against the cost of living made the lead item.

Magazines and English-language weeklies have bright spots — talented, glamorous Russian women seeking Western husbands, especially Americans, describe their attributes in glowing terms.

Russian men are relatively silent about getting foreign brides.

"Are Russian women more desirable than Americans?" one paper asks.

It quotes the American proprietor of one matchmaking agency as saying: "A lot of men who are disgusted with money-hungry American women are finding that Russian women adore us."

One Russian editor says of the changed media scene: "For so long under the Communists, nearly everything was a beautiful success. If anything wrong had to be made known, this was the subject of massive deliberation, going through the Central Committee to the politburo."

"And now — you have to look hard to find a single piece of good news. But the media is being believed."

BOOK REVIEW

Damaging decisions

The Peace Conference And Direct Talks With Israel
By Ibrahim Baker

"One can easily state without exaggeration that the Palestinian leadership's decision to accept 'self-rule' is in principle the worst and the most damaging decision in the history of the Palestinian cause." This alarming statement is the conclusion of a book written and published recently by prominent lawyer and political activist Ibrahim Baker.

The major risk of approving the principle of interim self-rule is that it gives Israel a chance to avoid a transfer of authority to the Palestinians and to impose its own interpretation of self-rule — i.e. control over the people minus the land and natural resources. Yet since the Palestinian leadership has already accepted the principle of self-rule (Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have already started over the issue), Mr. Baker suggests that the Palestinians should insist on an interim self-rule that involves the control of the land and the resources, including East Jerusalem, and leads to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

If a year elapses after the beginning of the peace process, without an agreement on self-rule that involves transfer of authority to the Palestinians over the people, land and resources, or if the talks are disrupted due to "Israeli intransigence," Mr. Baker calls for the formation of a Palestinian provisional government to be based in East Jerusalem.

The goal of setting up the provisional government, which should be formed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), would be to assert that the Palestinians and not Israel will be the source of authority during the interim period.

Mr. Baker warns that under no circumstances should the Palestinian delegation accept that Israel remains the source of authority during the interim period or else Palestinian rights will be completely compromised.

Mr. Baker, who has played an influential role in shaping Palestinian decision-making before and after the foundation of the PLO, is by no means an opponent of peace talks with Israel. But his book, *The Peace Conference And Direct Talks With Israel* is a warning that by accepting the U.S. terms for the current peace process the PLO leadership has not only compromised its role but also Palestinian national rights.

In Mr. Baker's view the two most damaging decisions that the PLO has endorsed are its acceptance of an interim self-rule that is not derived from United Nations Resolution 242 and that the "final status" of the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will be negotiated at the end of a five-year interim period.

By accepting such a proposed formula both an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and Palestinian national and legal rights, as recognised in United Nations resolutions, become "negotiable" issues rather than the objectives of the peace process, Mr. Baker maintains.

Although some Palestinian officials disagree with Mr. Baker the U.S. reaction to a Palestinian proposal announced last March during the fourth round of Israeli-Palestinian talks concerning interim arrangements give credence to his arguments. The Palestinian Interim Self Government Authority (PISGA) involves a plan for gradual transfer of authority from Israel to the Palestinian on the basis of Resolution 242.

U.S. State Department officials dismissed the plan as "a blue print for an independent Palestinian state" and called on the Palestinians to stop "public-posturing and come up with workable proposals. On March 5, the New York Times quoted a State Department official as saying that an Israeli proposal which explicitly stated that Israel would remain the only source of authority during the interim period and completely ignored Resolution 242 was closer to the American position.

In his book, Mr. Baker argues that both the American terms for the peace process and practical positions towards the Israeli Arab conflict undermine Washington's claim to be "an honest broker."

Therefore the PLO leadership should not have accepted the American terms for Palestinian participation or the process itself, as outlined in the letters of assurances sent by Washington to the Palestinians prior to the Madrid peace conference, he maintains.

The implicit point that Mr. Baker makes throughout his book is that the American proposed terms and modalities which were accepted by the Palestinian leadership, aim at derailing the negotiations from United Nations resolutions and to avoid the issue of Palestinian national rights.

Mr. Baker, echoing wide Palestinian resentment, particularly rejects American stipulation that Palestinian representation should be confined to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, that interim self-rule should precede "negotiations over the final status of the territories," and that the refugee problems should be discussed at the regional (multilateral talks) — conditions that were accepted by the PLO leadership.

By excluding the Palestinians in Jerusalem and the diaspora, the PLO played into the hands of the U.S. which, in his view, is seeking to confine the negotiations to the problem of "residents of the occupied territories" and not a Palestinian people entitled to national rights.

Whereas by referring the refugee problem to the multilateral talks, the U.S. could revive its old proposal that refugees should be settled in Arab host countries or the Israeli claim that the refugees have lost their right to return when some Arab countries expelled Jews.

In short the formula for Palestinian representation, as stipulated by the U.S. and accepted by the Palestinian leadership, and the reference of the refugee problem to the multilateral serve to undermine the Palestinian demands for national rights and self-determination.

Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the interim self-rule proposal is that it gives Israel the chance to argue that the proposed self-rule is not a subject of international law but "internal law," i.e. the Israeli law, to prevent a transfer of authority to the Palestinians.

The Israeli-proposed plan for interim self arrangements confirm Mr. Baker's concerns. The plan given to the Palestinians during the fourth round of bilateral talks insists that Israel will be the source of law and authority during the interim period.

In his book Mr. Baker does not base his conclusions on an imagined, behind-the-scenes American "conspiracy" but rather on public American statements and positions — including the letters of assurances to the different parties involved in the peace process.

He does not call for a boycott of the process but he seems to be urging the Palestinian leadership to deal with the negotiations without any illusions of where Washington stands on the Palestinian national rights. In that context he explicitly challenges the main premises promoted by some of the staunch Palestinian supporters of the peace process, who argue that following the end of the cold war, and even the Gulf-war, Israel has lost its strategic value for the U.S.

In Mr. Baker's view the American-Israeli strategic relationship might have lost some of its importance but that Israel's role in "safeguarding Western interests especially oil" in the region has not ended.

On several occasions he sharply attacks whom he describes as "the co-opted or tamed" Palestinian intellectuals who are offering justifications for "compromising Palestinian rights."

Mr. Baker's conclusions have sparked serious debate in Jordan and elsewhere. Even those who disagree with him cannot dismiss his comments taking into account his long standing history as a principled political activist and his reputation as an outstanding political thinker and lawyer.

Mr. Baker, who was one of the first Palestinian leaders that Israel deported after its occupation of the West Bank in 1967, has always been a key figure in Jordanian and PLO politics. He is the only Palestinian who has served as deputy of the PLO Executive Committee chairman.

His conclusions raises serious questions especially as the ongoing process has so far been fruitless. Unfortunately there has been no official PLO response, at least in public, to the serious questions that Mr. Baker's conclusions raise.

The book's main question that needs to be answered by the PLO leadership: Are the Palestinians ready to accept a settlement that the process seems to be leading to, or do their leaders have a different evaluation of the American position?

Lamis Andoni

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation
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- The American Cultural Center, Tel. 641520
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

Leaving the nest

By Maha Addasi

Once upon a time you lived in a house where life was easy. Your bed was made for you. Your laundry was done and ironed. Your meals were hot and placed before you. And your responsibilities were few and far between. You slept, you ate, and you invited friends over to watch television. You sat through a video marathon, feet up, watching and munching on popcorn which you carelessly crushed under your feet as you stumped out of the house.

Then ... you got married and together with friends you started to compare notes. You realised fast that an era had passed and hard labour has begun!

From experience you learned that if you did not make your own bed, and if you did not tidy your own place it would soon start to look like The Chamber of Horrors at Madame Tussaud's wax museum. If you failed to dust for more than one day, enough sand would build up to support small saplings.

The same goes for vacuum cleaning. Refuse to do the vacuuming and small colonies of one thing or another would manifest themselves on your carpet.

Similarly, laundry piles up like a phantom haunting you. The minute the basket is emptied you find a forgotten towel that needed washing and place it in the basket, just to continue the tradition of the "never-empty-laundry-basket" that used to mysteriously drive your mother nuts. This very towel, though, serves the purpose for comparing colours with the rest of such towels that have "changed" in the wash.

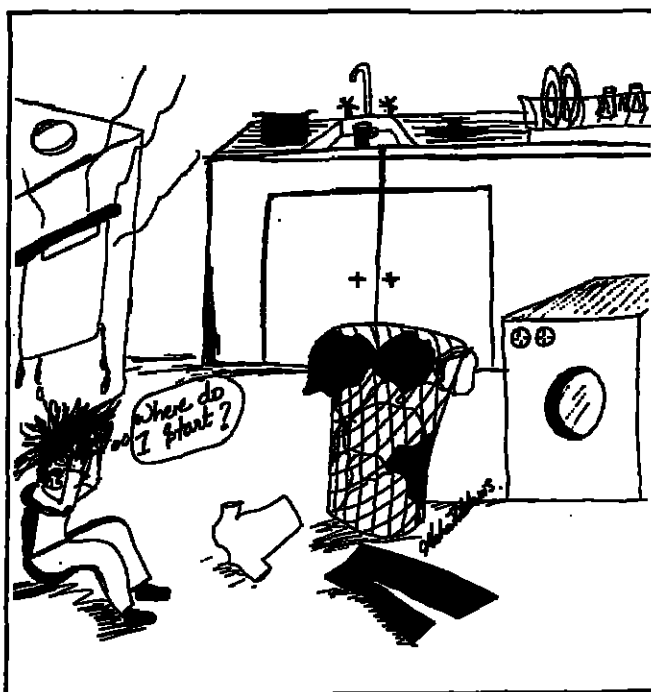
The washing machine itself becomes a story worth relating. It moves from its place, so that at the end of the load you find it in the middle of the kitchen. Not quite where you left it. After getting over the initial shock of realising that the machine was not moved by an intruder but by its own vibrations, your imagination goes wild and you hope that one day the machine would vibrate all the way to the laundry line and hang the clothes. But no such luck.

And to save time on ironing you only press the collars of shirts and wear sweaters to cover all the other creases. Even if you are about to choke with heat stroke there is no way you are going to remove your sweaters.

Now to food. Remember how you complained about your mother's cooking? You soon live to regret those moments, because cooking is not quite that easy you know. Especially when you do not have gas. And if you do not have gas then good luck for trying to catch the van that sells gas cylinders.

You would hear the van honk, but by the time you dash down the stairs you are often just in time to see the van disappear round the corner.

After many such passive attempts and still no gas, you start to adopt a more sure-fire method of getting gas. You start running after the van in the streets hoping that



someone would need a gas cylinder and would stop the van with some magic words so you can learn. Meanwhile you act like cavemen running after your food.

Once you get the gas you realise that there is more to cooking than a working stove, and you decide to stick to canned food from here on out. You also start to appreciate your mother's cooking more and more.

Now that the food crisis is solved another problem arises. That of hot water, or even cold. You learn, the hard way of course, to pay the diesel and water tanks regular visits. Otherwise you would have to heat water in pots to get a hot shower.

With time it sinks in that someone must take the trash out because it will not walk out to the garbage dump by itself. You also start to count all the things that you took for granted living at home with your parents. You know for sure how spoiled you were yet you always wanted to do things your way.

So welcome to independence. See if you like it. And don't mind that little voice that sounds so much like your mother's telling you: "You think I have no reason to yell. Look at this mess. Just wait till you get married."

You start thinking that maybe it is not too late to show your appreciation to your parents. Maybe if you explain how you have not once watched television since you left home, they would feel for you and give you some domestic hints. Maybe if you are lucky they would cook for you, and do your laundry and your ironing. But then again. Maybe they won't.

For want of a loaf

By E. Yaghi

"Summertime, and the living is easy. Summertime, and the living is good," Huda sang as she quickly shooshed her children off to school.

She hummed her way through her chore, first the dishes as she watched pigeons fly out her kitchen porthole, and then her dusting while she observed the busy circle out of her parlour window. After she mopped the floor, swept there, she settled down to prepare the main meal of the day. "There's not much time left," she admonished herself as she scurried around her kitchen, pulling out drawers and opening cupboards. "What ever shall I cook today?"

She scratched her netted hair and finally decided to cook "mujedderah" (rice with lentils) and sat down to commence the tedious task of sorting out the small rocks that seemed more than the lentils. While she sat there preoccupied with her chore and sang along with her favourite radio station, her solitude was broken by a knock on the door. "Wonder who that could be? I certainly don't have time for guests now!"

She adjusted her hair, straightened her dress and proceeded to answer the door. She was startled to see a dirty ragged woman dressed in black standing outside on the steps of her house. Before she could utter a word, the beggar said, "May God bless your husband and children, please, can you spare me a loaf of bread? I'm so hungry and I've had nothing to eat all day!"

Huda felt guilty. She supposed she was sometimes too trusting and naive but at least she must be a little compassionate and take this poor woman's word about her hunger. Before she closed the door she said, "Just a moment, I'll be right back!"

Leaving the beggar standing outside, she dashed into the kitchen, grabbed a loaf of bread and rushed back to her front door, opening it and saying, "Here, take his loaf and enjoy it!"

The ragged woman stretched out her dry, cracked hand, took the loaf of bread and placed it in a wrinkled looking old black bag and replied: "Oh, thank you Madame. May you and your family always live in good health!"

The shoddy woman then turned slowly and left. Huda stayed watching her until she disappeared around a corner of trees. "What am I doing?" she asked herself. "I must get back to my work and finish picking the lentils, but perhaps I should have given that pitiful woman something else besides just a loaf of bread!"

She returned to her domain and heaved herself down on a kitchen chair and resumed her monotonous job. Some quarter of an hour later, she heard a knock on her front

door once more. "Oh, for heaven's sake! I have no time to keep running and answering the door. Soon the kids will be home and their father too. He'll be as hungry as a lion and what will appease his appetite until my cooking finishes? Who could that be now?"

She stomped angrily to the door, flung it open and to her disgust and surprise, saw the same ragged beggar woman standing in front of her with a defiant look. "Well," Huda demanded with irritation in her voice. "What do you want now?"

The beggar rebelliously shoved the loaf she had taken at Huda and declared in a shrill voice: "Is this what you give me, bread that smells like kerosene? I may be starving, but I'm not so hungry that I'll eat poisoned food!"

Embarrassment itched itself across Huda's countenance and she replied with chagrin: "But that's impossible! I took this loaf from the same pile of bread that my family and I eat from. There has to be some mistake!"

"If you don't believe me, smell it for yourself!" the shabby female encouraged, pushing the loaf at Huda.

Ashamed and confused, Huda snatched the bread and bent her head down to sniff the offensive food. Everything suddenly went black and she slumped in a heap across the threshold of her house. Time stood still while she lingered among the dead, until a small hand roughly half punched, half pulled her shoulder and a far away voice pleaded, "Mommy, Mommy, wake up!"

It sounded like her young son. She opened her eyes and stared stupidly at her boy. She was so tired. Her whole body felt like a truck had run over it. She tried to sit up. Her head pounded like a hundred striking hammers. Her eyes began to focus in bewilderment at her children who had formed a circle around her. "What's wrong Mommy? Why were you lying down asleep inside the doorway?"

"I don't know what happened," Huda said, rubbing her eyes. "I remember a strange woman thrusting the bread I gave her back in my face and then I must have fainted! Oh, my God ..."

She suddenly looked down at her wrists where her bracelets had been only a short while ago. "She's stolen my gold — my rings, my bracelets and even my earrings!" she screamed as her fingers touched her bare ears.

Forgetting her groggy sensation, she jumped up and ran through her house, checking her valuables. Everything portable worth anything was gone and now Huda realised that the ragged indignant beggar was really a deviant criminal who made her living and much more off unsuspecting and innocent victims like herself. She sat down on the floor, buried her head in her hands and moaned, "Whatever am I going to tell my husband?"

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 14

8:30 The Simpsons.

Homer Simpson and his friends have a stupid argument over a little boy who sells his personal belongings just to buy a magazine.

9:10 UEFA Cup Final Winners.

10:00 News In English

10:20 White Lie

Starring: Gregory Hines and Annette O'Toole

A black journalist from New York returns to Louisiana after 30 years to find the truth about his father who was hanged after being accused of raping a white woman.

Friday, May 15

8:30 Coach

Don't Get Mad. Get Cool

Hayden and Luther have an argument about cars, their make and engines; Christine tries to participate when Hayden stops her, claiming this is man's talk and women have no place in it.

9:10 E.N.G.

Running With The Pach

Dan disobeys orders to cover the proceedings of an important trial.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Devices And Desires

The police work hard to discover the reasons behind Caroline's mysterious death at sea. Mrs. Denson, on the other hand, hides the killer for personal reasons.

11:10 Silbs

Desperate to go to a charity ball to see Frank Sinatra,



(Left to right) Christopher Noth, George Dzundza, Michael Moriarty and Richard Brooks star in Law and Order Sunday at 10:20

Warren begs for, and finally gets, two tickets to Nora. Warren's date is Nora's sister, Audie, who is a married woman.

Saturday, May 16

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter
This week's guest is Janette Khader, a member of the Higher Education Council and English language professor at the University of Jordan.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Joshua's Heart

Starring: Gilbert Brinkman
Claudia meets Tom, the divorced engineer, and his 10-year-old Joshua. Tom and his son are both attracted to her and love her. At a later stage, Joshua is very attached to her despite the love warm relationship between her and his father.

Sunday, May 17

8:30 Wings

Little Nightmare Music

Helen's attempts to be recognised as a cello player are endless. A renowned musician is in town to spend his honeymoon with his bride. Helen breaks their seclusion and insists on playing for him.

9:10 The World Audubon

A documentary on yet another of man's victims — The ancient nomad, the sea turtles.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Law And Order

Out Of The Half Light

The police find an African American woman in a street in Harlem in a desperate condition and she is transferred to hospital.

Monday, May 18

8:30 Empty Nest

It is a full moon in Miami and everyone is affected.

9:10 Capital City

Sylvia, the head dealer at Shane Dealers, conspires to get rid of Decklan, Michele, Chas and Circa by offering them to another company.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Gold

Starring: Yammick Bisson

The city council debates the possibility of imposing a tax on the rights to mine for metals and procedures concerning selling lands.

Tuesday, May 19

8:30 Princesses

Expressing one's feeling in writing can be a dangerous thing

9:10 The Palace Guard

Ex-convict, Thomas, and Christie are appointed as special guards and investigators for Palace Hotels.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Oscar Film

The Greatest Show On Earth

Wednesday, May 20

8:30 Saved By The Bell

Zack places a microphone in the girls room to listen to their talk about the party. When Kelly discovers the microphone she starts to prepare a hoax for him.

9:10 European Cup Final

10:00 News In English

10:20 Cont. Of The European Cup Final

MAY BIRTH-STONE

THE EMERALD

Family — A variety of Beryl.

Colour — Rich velvety green, yellowish green and light grass green.

Geographical sources — Brazil, Colombia, India, South Africa, and CIS.

Legendary background — The earliest known gem market in Babylon was held about 4,000 B.C. It is said that an emerald on offer there was dedicated, by the ancients, to the goddess of love, Venus, because it was her favorite precious stone. The emerald has long been associated with eyesight and could to some extent be the origin of the green is considered to be the most restful colour for the eyes. In fact Nero, who suffered from bad sight, was said to use a sliced emerald to lengthen his vision while watching the gladiators in the arena. Among their many superstitions, sailors believe that to hang an uncut emerald around the neck, with the rough side against the skin, will protect all seafarers, including fishermen, from drowning.

Qualities — Love and success.

Jewellery interpretations — The ancient Egyptians managed to engrave emeralds for use as ring stones. In Roman times they were added to other precious stones in one jewel to create a spectacular chromatic effect. By the seventeenth century precious stones cut in various shapes and sizes took pride of place, with emeralds well to the fore. Included in the Russian jewels of the late eighteenth century is a magnificent necklace of emeralds and brilliant cut diamonds with matching earrings. During the 1850's ribbon bows dominated a certain type of Victorian necklace, set with rose diamonds and with emeralds backed by silver foil. Today — Emeralds are emerald cut, that is oblong with cut corners. The most usual form for a ring is a cluster protected by a circle of diamonds.

Notable May birthdays — Queen Victoria, Charles II.

Famous chefs open lower-priced bistros

By Suzy Patterson
The Associated Press

PARIS — Now there is an alternative for those who love the cuisine of top-ranked chefs but hate paying at least \$100 apiece to eat it: Nip around to one of their bargain bistros.

The cozy bistros are the latest dining-out trend, a gastronomic "ready-to-eat" like the ready-to-wear lines of fashion designers. About a dozen have opened in Paris, Lyon and elsewhere.

Often, the tab at the bistro is less than half the charge at the main restaurant. The dishes are simpler, the frills fewer.

In these economic hard times, the chefs are as happy as the customers: The bistros are far more profitable than their famous flagship restaurants.

"There's a nostalgia for informality and traditional cooking," said Michel Rostang, who has three annex restaurants in Paris called Bistrot d'a Cote, based on his two-star restaurant.

His first is literally next door, but the other two are elsewhere in the city. All are filled with 19th century memorabilia Mr. Rostang collected in flea markets.

"I bought this little old-fashioned grocery store five years ago just because it was available, and finally decided

to make it into a less expensive restaurant," Mr. Rostang said.

He now rushes around to his lower-priced establishments to make sure the veal kidneys in red wine or the Lyonnais sausages are just right.

Jacques Cagna is an enthusiastic chef with a mission to expand, capitalising on the fame of his main Paris restaurant.

"We offer a high-priced product for the few, and something lower-priced but still with our stamp on it, for many more people, very comparable to ready-to-wear versus haute couture," he said.

Business is booming at the Rotisserie d'En Face, opened early this year directly across from Cagna's regular establishment, which also rates two stars in the Michelin Guide.

"I aim at high quality, top produce, but it's less elaborate," he said of the Rotisserie. The food is simple and so is the decor, featuring pastoral prints of cows.

Instead of glazed lobster or oyster consomme with avocado, diners might enjoy duck pate, spit-roasted farm chicken, warm apple tart and a good wine for about \$40 each, approximately one-third the price of a meal across the street.

"My turnover is much better at the Rotisserie," Mr. Cagna said. "Many more cus-

tomers are served by fewer personnel. And the fare decor, everything is simpler."

Mr. Cagna said he can do about \$2.2 million of business a year in either restaurant, but the Rotisserie's overhead and payroll costs are much lower.

Guy Savoy, another two-star chef in Paris, started his first annex, Le Bistrot De l'Etoile, as a kind of modest club for fellow chefs.

"Then I saw the profit margins," he said, "and I found other sites for similar places."

His latest, Butte Chaillot, departs from the norm with its starkly modern decor, but a wood-burning fireplace adds cheer. It intrigues a city clientele with country-style food like a savory tart of blood sausage and apple sauce and sea bass grilled with a sprinkling of virgin olive oil.

Jean-Paul Lacombe of Lyon was started the annex business. He owns the famed Leon De Lyon, which was demoted this year from two stars to one.

Seventeen years ago, Mr. Lacombe discovered he could make money and have fun as well with his 190-style second restaurant, the Bistrot De Lyon. He said he started it "as a place I could go with friends and play cards."

Mr. Lacombe soon found that serving herring instead of lobster, at far lower prices,

attracted crowds. Feeding 60 diners with a five-person staff produced more profit than the luxury trade at his top-line restaurant.

Over the years, Mr. Lacombe's idea became a trend. Even three-star chef Georges Blanc in Vonnas, near Lyon, has opened an annex. He calls it the Ancienne Auberge.

Mr. Lacombe has become an entrepreneur, opening several Lyonnais eateries with various partners. They range from a Bistrot d'En Face, with Rostang, to l'italien De Lyon, a pasta restaurant.

"But I'd never drop my Leon De Lyon," he said. "It adds credibility to my annex, and shows the best I can do."

The other chefs concur: They may branch out, but will maintain the haute cuisine for personal satisfaction.

"I want to start several more restaurants, maybe even in Japan or the United States," Mr. Cagna said. He doesn't envision anything like a chain, however, and Rostang observed: "We're still artisans."

Hedwige Clayeux, an expert French amateur cook, called the bistros "a welcome change" and added this caution about mass production: "I hope they won't deteriorate into the boring style of a chain restaurant."

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The Merchant of Bombay

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — Partnerships in film-making rarely last long. There are financial risks and failures galore, and artistic clashes spell disaster and divorce all too often. It's fascinating then to meet Ismail Merchant of Merchant Ivory films, a collaboration that has lasted 31 years and is moving from strength to strength.

It was back in 1961 that Merchant met Californian director James Ivory. Later that year, they teamed up with Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, their script-writer, who was born in Germany, educated in Britain and married for 25 years to an Indian who lived in Bombay. Merchant Ivory is believed to be the longest collaboration in films anywhere.

"It's more than a marriage," says Merchant, quoting his late actor friend Shashi Kapoor. "Yes, it's amazing to think we've been together that long. There is mutual respect and each of us has a role to play." For his part the mercurial, handsome

former actor with a ready laugh contributes financing, marketing and unquenchable optimism. Looking at the bleak prospects of many independent film producers, he insists it's largely a matter of confidence and optimism. "If a chorus is singing 'we're all dead,' then they will be dead. If the chorus sings 'we're all alive,' then that will become the reality. It's the spirit that has to be kept alive." A \$25 million production can lose money, he explains, but if the ingredients are right "there's no reason why a film costing \$3 to \$5 million cannot make money."

Merchant Ivory has unpretentious but bustling offices in midtown Manhattan, Soho in London and near the film colony in his original home town, Bombay. Merchant has become a true internationalist, and finds shuttling from one continent to another "not confusing at all but very stimulating."

He's finished scouting Indian locations for a film from a novel by Booker Prize-winning author Anita Desai.

"We will make it near Bhopal, where that Union Carbide disaster took place. It's just right for our story," Merchant said. And then his company will be making a film about early convict labour in Australia from the writings of Thomas Keneally, another Booker Prize winner.

In Europe, Merchant Ivory will film Jefferson in Paris, a story about the American president when he was envoy to pre-Revolutionary France. It hinges on a liaison between Jefferson and a black slave woman. Then the company is to make an as-yet untitled film about the painter Picasso in love. Merchant Ivory has produced 15 feature films, but its production tempo is rising now. So too, is its reputation. With great casts of distinguished actors from Rod Steiger to Felicity Kendal to Christopher Reeve. It's Merchant's particular skill to enlist glossy names of quality because of the intelligence and integrity of Merchant Ivory films.

Some critics believe the latest is the best, Howard's

End, from the novel by E.M. Forster. It co-stars top Oscar actor of 1992, Anthony Hopkins, and Emma Thompson, wife of actor-director Kenneth Branagh. Also in the cast are Helena Bonham Carter and Vanessa Redgrave. Time magazine flatly declares Howard's End their best work, but Merchant was evasive in naming his own favourites. "It's like choosing between children, you know," he said. He did express specially warm feelings for the group's biggest hit to date, A Room With A View, for Heat And Dust, set mostly in India, and Shakespeare Wallah.

Merchant explained that his mini-studio, if it can be called that, "makes us outsiders of conventional Hollywood or Indian cinema circles. Some of our films set in India speak more of European cinema," he said of films that deal with the mesh or clash of cultures from east and west. "From the first, we wanted to do films for the international market. The backgrounds make at least two of us outsiders to projects in Europe, America or India. But that works to our advantage, too, giving us much more penetrating eyes. I think we have more acute observation than people who live here or there every day."

When not cooking up a distribution deal or new production, Merchant is a gourmet cook who loves banquet scenes in his films (notably Heat And Dust). One of his great joys is to prepare giant feasts on sets for his cast and crew. Merchant's book on Indian cuisine of a few years ago is a steady seller. He's putting the final seasoning on a book about Florence that stems from the shoot of A Room With A View in 1966. Characteristically, Merchant haunts street markets for ingredients and he found fusions between curries and Italian food pleased everyone around. In July, his booklet on vegetarian cooking will be



Emma Thompson

distributed through the powerful Sainsbury supermarket chain in Britain. Ismail Noormohamed Abdul Rehman Merchant was born to a devout Muslim family on Christmas Day 1936. His father was a textiles man with a flair for picking winning horses at races, from which the son inherited his risk-taking leanings. Ismail studied at Bombay Muslim and Jesuit-run schools. While at St. Xavier's College and producing some student shows, he added Merchant to the family name Rehman. He then went to New York City and earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from New York University.

"Since I was a boy," he recalls "I wanted to put my energies into film. I watched Hollywood exports and the great flood of song-and-dance spectacles that came from Bombay film studios." In the late 1950s, he says, "I developed a passion for the European master directors, like Bergman, De Sica and Fellini."

His initiation into producing came in 1958 when he made a 14-minute commentary about Indian myth, Creation Of Woman. It won an Oscar nomination for a short subject. Since that time, on his first budget of only \$9,000, he has become an expert at keeping budgets low. Last year's Mr. and Mrs. Bridge, co-starring Paul

Newman and his wife Joanne Woodward, was made for \$7.5 million. Howard's End exceeds that at \$8 million, a trifle compared to Hollywood budgets.

Merchant has, beyond the ability to enlist stars at less than their normal fees, a great facility for "borrowing" expensive props wherever he can. And there are those curry banquets to keep moral high for cast and crew.

There's been a gradual shift down the years of audience taste toward Merchant Ivory films, many adapted from serious books like Henry James's The Europeans and The Bostonians. The audience no longer regards them as art-house movies, and so Merchant Ivory productions have entered the mainstream.

"We are a small operation of quality movie-making," the producer explained. "After the great critical and box-office success of A Room With A View, people were throwing scripts and big-money offers at us. The temptations were almost too great. But we decided to go on independently by ourselves." Merchant Ivory films are not without their critics. Some compare the rather florid, occasional precious period pieces to the clothes of Laura Ashley. Merchant, a man of volatile temperament smiled, however, when he replied: "Some shallow-minded, prejudiced people ask why we've made three Forster stories. He is a wonderful British writer who talks of today. A better question is: Why not Forster?"

"We are fortunate to have our great supporters. Famous actors who like our approach, loyal investors here in London who stick with us for many years. And we have an audience that stretches from California through Europe to Japan. They have come to understand that a Merchant Ivory film will have certain qualities not often to be found elsewhere" — World News Link.



A rare example of level-headedness in the film business, the Merchant Ivory production company has survived even success. Part of the credit goes to Ismail Merchant



Helena Bonham Carter



From left, James Wilby, Gemma Redgrave, Vanessa Redgrave and Joseph Bennett in the Merchant Ivory production of E.M. Forster's Howard's End

San Francisco enjoys poetry reading revival

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Nearly 38 years after Allen Ginsberg gave his first San Francisco reading of Howl, the anthem of the beat generation, public poetry readings are in a resurgence in the United States.

"Every night of the week except Saturday there's an open mike going on somewhere," said Kathy Georges, a poet who coordinates readings at the Exit Cafe, one of dozens of Bay Area cafes and clubs that welcome poetry readings.

The poets say San Francisco is at the forefront of a national resurgence of readings.

Signs of a rebirth of interest in poetry can be found in national events such as "Poetry Slam" where the best poets from eight cities compete. This year's contest will be held in Boston in May.

On open-mike nights, those who want to read their works simply show up early and put their names on a list. Most poetry nights have featured readers but on a recent evening at the Exit a couple of walk-in poets proved to be more popular than their featured colleagues.

Craig Easley, a 41-year-old clerical worker for Pacific Gas and Electric Co., read to a standing-room-only crowd a poem he called Beat. It went, in part: "Beat has its own slang Beat was the big bang. Beat was there in the beginning. Beat got put into the atom bomb. Beat got frustrated in Vietnam..." While Easley's poem had a decidedly political bent, the poems at the Exit run the gamut of topics, Georges said. "Love, sex, seasons,

money, music, tuna fish — it really does vary," she said. "Once we had a stripper reading a poem about stripping." The evening's featured poet, Quentin Baker, read a poem about each of his children and one about his grandson, which he illustrated by passing around a photograph of the boy. Some of the poets have been published by small local presses. Others, such as Easley, say the readings alone are a worthy goal. "Anyone who is a poet has to understand that the end goal isn't to get something

published but to read it to people," Easley said. Some of the poets labour for months on a poem before they are ready to present it to an audience. Others are just as likely to read a poem they composed that night. Amy Kashiwabara, 18, wrote My Green Thumb at a table at the Exit Cafe as she waited for her turn. "Your skeleton is a garden," it began, "Beggings to bear fruit." For audiences who pack places like the Exit, poetry readings are at the least cheap entertainment. Most

are free. Katherine Harrar, owner of Small Press Traffic Book Store, sees the readings in the context of man's early history. "It was the way of the tribal community," she said. "Sometimes when people are sitting around the room listening to someone read, you feel like you're getting back to that tribal community." She attributes the poetry scene's current popularity to a lack of national culture and mass media that she says seem to be growing more remote from their audience.

"When the culture offers you less and less, when the mass media is so obviously corrupt and filled with bias, and when the publishing industry is dominated by just a few publishers, it seems like a natural reaction for people to start finding a more personal art form," she said. Jerry Miley, who has been published by local small presses, showed up recently in the crowded, smoke-filled poetry room of one cafe with a plastic bag filled with poems. The room is decorated with a non-working cigarette machine and a jukebox with recordings by jazzmen who provided the musical sounds of the beat era: Dave Brubeck, Stan Getz and others.

Miley, an intense and bearded man, declaimed his poem Reflections From The Tenderloin, about a down-and-out San Francisco neighborhood, as if his life depended on it. "For the poor poet who can't afford to send out 300 copies of a manuscript to different publishers, the best way for that artist to decide what is to test out written manuscripts before a poetry audience," he said.

Exhibition of Gericault's works at last 'breaks the myth'

By Pascale Teinac

A painter has rarely been identified with a single work to the extent that Théodore Géricault has with his Radeau De La Méduse (Raft of the "Méduse"), an immense masterpiece both in its size (32m²) and in its quality, but which has unfairly put the rest of this very great artist's work in the shade.

PARIS — The superb retrospective presented in the Grand Palais in Paris, for the bicentenary of Géricault's birth, finally remedies this injustice. Three hundred works, brought together for the first time, some of which have never been on view in France, at last make it possible to "break the myth" of this rejected artist who died at the age of 32 as a result of several falls from a horse, a pity for a man who loved horses so much and painted them so well.

Another irony of fate is that the Radeau De La Méduse, which cannot be moved, is not shown in the

exhibition. This is a good pretext for visitors to go and see it, free of charge, in the Louvre. There are, however, numerous sketches and preparatory studies tracing the genesis of this masterpiece, inspired by the shipwreck of the frigate Méduse in 1816. The ship had set sail for Senegal and sank on the way. Of the one hundred and forty or so men piled onto the makeshift raft, only fifteen survived.

History has retained the horror of scenes of cannibalism among the castaways, but Géricault finally chose to paint a moment of hope in his picture, when the castaways

spot a sail and try to draw the attention of the rescue ship, in vain, the first time.

Corpses from nature

Corpses do, however, figure on the raft, painted, one could say, from life, as Géricault, who had rented a special studio in which to do this painting, had pieces of autopsied corpses brought from a neighbouring hospital, in his concern for realism. He had also visited sick people and drawn their faces marked with suffering. The horror, which is absent in the painting, is very present in the sketches and preparatory drawings.

Other experts have wanted to make Géricault the promoter of the war epic because of his numerous "military" paintings, but, on the face of the Mounted Light-Infantry Officer who has turned over on the battlefield, one does not read the glory of arms but the tragedy of war. The

Light-Infantry lieutenant of the Imperial Guard, who posed for this painting, which is one of Géricault's most famous, was to die a few months later in the retreat from Russia.

Géricault was born in 1791 and was the son of a distinguished person in the provinces who, to begin with, opposed his son's vocation. He was a keen and talented copyist, as shown in his copies of works by Rembrandt, Caravaggio and Titian, presented in the exhibition. A letter from the Director of the Imperial Museums, Vivant Denon, dated 1812, tells us that the young man had been thrown out of the Louvre "for ever" after a violent row with a student and an angry quarrel with the custodians.

Portraits of madmen

From Italy, where he went in 1816-17, Géricault brought back, among other things, a series of magnificent studies

on the theme of "The race for free horses," a traditional festivity in the Roman carnival. The horses go tearing along in this race without any harnesses or riders and, at the arrival, no doubt at the peril of their lives, the stableboys stop them in the midst of their gallop. For a passionate horselover like Géricault, it was a marvellous theme. However, he did not use it as a basis for the great painting which, according to his biographers, he had planned, contenting himself with about twenty painted studies (several of which have, unfortunately disappeared) and numerous drawings.

Another revelation at the exhibition is the magnificent lithographs which the painter made in London, where he went in 1820 to exhibit his Radeau De La Méduse with a success which the work had not had in France. These are gloomy works both from the point of view of the techniques and the grim subjects presented. In them Géricault

depicts the misery of the town, its beggars, its paralytics, its fishmongers and its baggage players, as well as the old plough-horses of the English countryside.

The exhibition ends on four extraordinary portraits of madmen: the Monomaniacs (monomania, a delirium on a single theme, was then a concept that was very much in vogue among mental health specialists). Géricault painted five of them; the Monomaniac Of The Military Commander (which is in Winterthur and it was not possible to present in Paris), the Monomaniac of the Child Stealer, and those of Gambling and Envy (which are women) and Theft.

Géricault died in 1824 after two years of suffering brought about as the result of a series of falls from horses. The death agony was atrociously painful and marked by several operations which turned out to be useless. He was 32 years old — L'Actualité En France.



Théodore Géricault's the Mounted Light-Infantry Lieutenant of the Imperial Guard

Cambodia in the grip of malaria epidemic

By Richard Werly

PHNOM PENH — "Every one talks about the danger of landmines, but that is not the worst threat," says Dr. Kevin L. Palmer from his office in the heart of the Cambodian capital. He is referring to the legacy of two decades of war that have left vast areas of land pocked with unexploded landmines. Thousands have lost life and limb, yet Dr. Palmer cannot find words strong enough to stress the importance of what may be an even greater killer in this battered country — malaria. Sent from the Malay capital of Kuala Lumpur where he heads a specialised research unit of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Palmer is pulling as hard as he can on the alarm bells. "There is nothing new about the situation, but with the rainy season coming and the lack of an adequate sanitary

and medical infrastructure, the epidemic could be uncontrollable. Two to four people are killed by landmines every day, but a much higher number of deaths can be attributed to malaria," he stressed.

Malaria has long been a problem in Cambodia, and strains resistant to normal medication have been known in the country for several generations. With the repatriation that started on March 30 of some 375,000 Khmer refugees who spent more than a decade in camps on the Thai side of the border, and the projected deployment of 16,000 United Nations "blue helmet" peacekeeping troops, the risks are greater than usual. "The most affected areas are in the northwest of the country, where the worst fighting occurred," says Dr. Palmer, pointing at a map coloured in pink to show malaria-infested

regions. "About 79 per cent of the refugees have asked to go back to that area and several battalions of the peacekeeping force are to be stationed there."

Less than six months after the signing of the Cambodian peace accords, this latest plague is threatening a nation torn apart by over 20 years of war. The Geneva-based WHO issued a two-page communiqué to alert local and international health organisations. The document stresses that medical supplies available in the country do not cover a quarter of the needs and that medical services in villages have disappeared. Japan's Hiroshi Nakajima, who heads the global health organisation, is clear about the danger: "If this country does not receive enough drugs or support for the improvement of its health system, we run the risk of seeing a real tragedy." In a

bid to avert the danger, local WHO teams have joined forces with the main non-governmental organisations (NGOs) based in Phnom Penh to inform organisers of the repatriation programme and future U.N. troops of the health hazard. With the Cambodian Red Cross, they have produced and distributed maps indicating danger zones. These are being used by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in selecting areas where large numbers of refugees will be relocated. "Defining danger areas is a first step," says Dr. Palmer. It's crucial to "avoid going too deeply into infested areas." In addition, the communiqué provides details on drugs and dosages effective against various strains of malaria.

Several meetings to refine details are scheduled in Phnom Penh between WHO and the health services of the German army, which is in charge of the medical protection of the U.N. troops. The goal is to achieve coherence in the types of drugs available to the contingents and to set up mechanisms to follow up and counter some of the side effects linked to prolonged absorption of the broad-based antibiotic tetracycline and quinine, the main form of emergency treatment for malaria.

"The task of protecting such large numbers of people is phenomenal. U.N. contingents have been sent from around the world with advice from their national medical services; some already in the country have arrived with inappropriate, or worse, toxic drugs. "Every strain of resistant malaria has to be treated with adequate drugs prescribed in a specific dosage over a determined length of time. Otherwise, the parasites continue to multiply and the patients relapse," says Dr. Palmer. "We are review-

ing the entire system by which the contingents are to be protected. It is vital to coordinate and train doctors and nurses if we are to avoid being decimated by the rainy season." One measure is to equip every soldier with a mosquito net impregnated with insecticide.

Doctors point to the fact that most refugees suffer from weakened immune systems as a result of years of living in camps; one or two mosquito nets per family should be made available, providing the UNHCR has enough money. Some units, such as the Australian contingent, have adopted their own preventive measures by equipping their troops with long-sleeved uniforms treated with insecticide. WHO has recommended that the 12 blue helmet battalions expected in Cambodia by the end of May take similar precautions, and the U.N. has installed anti-insect devices in all its buildings.

Action has also been taken on a political level. Strengthened by the support of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who returned to the Cambodian capital last November after a 13-year exile, several WHO specialists have organised a meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, the ruling body which groups the four Cambodian factions. The council has been examining the question of the return of refugees who were living in camps controlled by three parties that formed the resistance coalition that fought the Vietnamese-installed regime in Phnom Penh. Also under scrutiny is the situation in the so-called "liberated zones," border areas controlled by guerrilla factions. Covered by dense, impenetrable jungle, the border zone is infested with the most virulent strains of malaria.

Despite these efforts, the epidemic is far from under control. The Khmer Rouge

have persistently refused to let the International Committee of the Red Cross or the U.N. into territory they control in the west. The headquarters of the Khmer Rouge are known as one of the most malaria-infested regions of the country; the area attracts thousands of miners every day who come from Thailand and Burma to work in the Pailin gold mines. Without basic medical and sanitary facilities, malaria reportedly claims hundreds of victims yearly.

Substantial population movement — miners, returning refugees and U.N. troop deployments — is likely to spread the problem. "Some parts of the country that were unaffected are now at risk," warns Dr. Palmer. "The question is not the eradication of the disease because we do not have the means to do so. We need to contain its impact and make sure that peace in Cambodia does not provoke uncontrolled acceleration of the epidemic in the region" — World News Link.



These children born in the Cambodian refugee camps are ready to go home, but they risk being easy victims of the malaria epidemic.



Miners in western Cambodia, the most malaria-infested region, seek help at one of the few medical centres available.



About four million Cambodian refugees are starting to go home, but they fear that large population movements will increase the impact of the malaria epidemic.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

WELL-VERSED

By Don Johnson

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15 Broadway's
"Rabbit" Ben
19 Asper
20 Actor's line
21 Amphitheater
22 Poultry disease
23 "Bus Stop"
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24 Precious details
25 First-class
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28 Expert
29 Painter Fernand
30 Sumner
31 Parents
32 Walk unsteady

38 A Fond
39 Detecting gadget
40 Related
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"Rabbit" Ben
43 Park feature
45 Curve
46 More docile
47 Actor's line
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DOWN
1 Safe condition
2 Liqueur or
Lacoste
3 Lawyers,
humorously
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5 Leather worker
6 Willow
7 Intelligence
8 Time zone letters
9 Actress Susan
10 NCO
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284 One not of the
clergy
285 That can be
suspended
286 1940's wear
287 Old Norse poem

288 Mimic
289 Security pledges
290 Liqueur or
Lacoste
291 Lawyers,
humorously
292 Egg dish
293 Leather worker
294 Willow
295 Intelligence
296 Time zone letters
297 Actress Susan
298 NCO
299 Great Lakes
Indiana
300 Acquire
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317 Great Lakes
Indiana
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319 Opp. of sym.
320 One not of the
clergy
321 That can be
suspended
322 1940's wear
323 Old Norse poem

Diagramless

21 x 21, by James Barwick

ACROSS
1 Used to be
4 Legendary bird
5 Mystical card
6 Thawing
8 Carnivorous
12 Kind of ball or
pile
13 Singing voice
15 Cry on the Nile
16 Bar legally
18 Attorney—

19 Cooked in water
20 Board game
21 Thawing
22 Baby horse
23 Galls on
leaves
24 Chisel
25 Smallest of the
litter
41 No plus —

15 Far from a
gentleman
17 Energy
20 Rich patterned
fabric
21 Leap
22 Knight's weapon
23 Males changes in
play
24 Chisel
25 Smallest of the
litter
29 Fermented drink

42 — acid
43 Concerning
44 A single time
45 Suspect
46 Water, vaporized
47 Galled part
48 Skirt comb
49 form
50 Seller of cakes
and cookies
52 Pete's game

53 Stockton's state:
abbr.
54 Donkey
55 Smiley
56 Ancient garment
57 Galled part
58 Skirt comb
59 form
60 Seller of cakes
and cookies
62 Pete's game

57 Stockton's state:
abbr.
58 Donkey
59 Smiley
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176 Donkey
177 Smiley
178 Ancient garment
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180 Skirt comb
181 form
182 Seller of cakes
and cookies
184 Pete's game

Study questions safety of mammograms under age 50

By Daniel Q. Haney

The Associated Press
BOSTON — One of the world's largest studies of mammograms will conclude that women under age 50 are actually more likely to die of breast cancer after they receive the common tests, say experts familiar with the work.

The research, not yet published, already has come under attack from radiologists, who say it was flawed and its conclusions wrong. Nonetheless, some believe it may persuade health organisations to withdraw their support of routine mammograms for women under age 50.

A survey in 17 states in 1980 found that three-quarters of all U.S. women over age 40 had gotten at least one mammogram.

The Canadian National Breast Cancer Screening Study was conducted on nearly 90,000 women at 15 hospitals across Canada. Experts following the work say it found that those in their 40s who were randomly assigned to get mammograms were more likely to die from breast cancer during the next 10 years than were those given physical exams alone to check for cancerous lumps.

The study, which began in 1980, was a frequent topic of discussion at a recent national conference on breast cancer in Boston, although it was not formally on the programme. Some doctors said they fear "mammograms kill" headlines will make women afraid to get tests than can save their lives.

"We don't want to scare the whole population into staying away from mammograms, including women under age 50," said Dr.

Daniel Kopans, director of breast imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The Canadian researchers would say only that their study shows women under 50 don't benefit from mammograms. They declined to discuss the possibility of an increased risk of death or other findings until the work is published, perhaps later this year. But they adamantly defended the quality of their work.

"I think our study has been conducted in a meticulous, honest and open fashion. We have a very good study, and I think it has important implications for policy," said Dr. Cornelia J. Baines of the University of Toronto, deputy director of the study.

Dr. Kopans and others said they learned of the study's results from several presentations made by the Canadian researchers at small medical meetings. The magazine Diagnostic Imaging cited "unconfirmed reports" that the study shows women in their 40s who got annual mammograms were 50 per cent more likely to die of breast cancer than women who did not.

At the American Cancer Society, officials said they did not know enough about the study to comment on it. "All we've heard are rumours," said spokeswoman Joanne Schellenbach.

The society is among a dozen major health organisations that recommend mammograms annually for women over age 50 and mammograms every year or two for those 40 to 50.

Several large studies have shown that mammograms significantly reduce the risk of death for women over age 50. There has never been any proof that they save the lives

of younger women.

Because of its large

Plight of refugees on focus

(Continued from page 1)

The United States and other organizers have tried to keep controversial issues in the background and focus on modest, practical steps to collect data, define problems, and perhaps mobilize support for some small pilot projects.

But this strategy was under threat in Ottawa, where Arabs said they aimed to raise the Palestinians' right to return to homes in Israel and the territories from which they fled or were expelled after 1948 to 1967.

The chief Jordanian delegate to the refugee talks, Jawad Al Anani, told Reuters on Tuesday the U.S. State Department had sent Arabs a message over the weekend asking them not to raise the right of return.

"But we still feel we should reaffirm the right of return, as stipulated in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194. This is a highly technical issue and there is room for it to be included," he said.

The Palestinians held out hope the associates in the Ottawa talks would participate later on.

"I think you've got to take this as a process," said Dr. Elias Sanbar, a professor at the Sorbonne in Paris who heads the Palestinian delegation.

Referring to the Israelis, he added, "I hope they'll take the train later on."

Delegations from about 35 countries, including many from the Middle East, North Africa, the European Community and the co-sponsors of the current negotiations, the United States and Russia, were at hand at the Ottawa talks.

Chairing the meeting was Marc Perron, assistant deputy minister for Africa and the Middle East. The opening day Wednesday was devoted to allowing each side to state its views.

In Washington, the United States defended its decision to exclude Palestinians from talks on Middle East arms control but held out the prospect they may be included at a later date.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the Bush administration was "very pleased with the process" the meetings represent despite the absence of some key players.

The arms talks — which drew representatives from 13 Middle East countries, including Israel, as well as China, India, Japan, Turkey and the European Community — are the only

ones to which the Palestinians were not invited.

Ms. Tutwiler said that as the arms talks dealt with "armies, with navies, with air forces, with procurement of weapons, et cetera" it was determined by co-hosts Russia and the United States that "the entities that have those capabilities are best there to address those."

"I don't believe, to my knowledge, that the Palestinians... have a navy, an army, an air force," she told reporters.

But she stressed "this is the beginning of the process" and the invitation list could evolve in the future.

A Palestinian delegation has come to Washington anyway, seeking to enter the dialogue on security, if only informally.

"We haven't come to gate-crash (but) we have very practical proposals to present and we're trying to meet as many people (with the invited delegations) as we can" outside the formal arms talks format, said spokesman Yezid Sayigh.

"We don't think that's logical or productive" that Palestinians are excluded, he said. "Either we're a party to the conference and a party in the region or we're not."

In a statement, the Palestinians said the aim of their delegation was "to assist through constructive and far-sighted proposals in ending the regional arms race and in creating a new Middle East security system that allows all states and peoples in the region to live in peace and security."

The talks opened on Monday with U.S. and Russian hosts — including top U.S. side Dennis Ross and Moscow arms negotiator Alexi Obukhov — presenting a roadmap for approaching Middle East arms control and also included discussion among the participants.

On Tuesday, the delegations visited a secure room on the State Department's seventh floor that serves as the nuclear risk reduction centre that the United States and the former Soviet Union

established in their capitals in 1987 when the two countries still saw each other as cold war threats.

The centres — equipped with four computers, four printers and four fax machines — help monitor arms control agreements and nuclear tests and would be used to head off a crisis in event of an accidental nuclear launch.

The tour is part of a programme that has focused on educating

participants on methods and concepts of arms control, the evolution of confidence-building processes, the history of the U.S.-Soviet hotline agreement and the dangerous military activities agreements.

U.S. and allied officials hope such accords, as well as more recent U.S.-Soviet pacts, can serve as models for ways to reduce tensions eventually in the Middle East.

U.S. statement surprises Israel

(Continued from page 1)

in a telephone interview. Mr. Goli also reaffirmed Israel's opposition to the resolution, calling it "a pretext for the destruction of the state of Israel."

The refugee issue is at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict, with one of Israel's main worries about peace talks being the fate of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian war refugees and their offspring.

Ms. Tutwiler Tuesday refused to give any interpretation on how far the right of return extends.

"The United States has supported U.S. General Assembly Resolution 194 since it was adopted Dec. 11, 1948," she told reporters at a briefing. "We continue to support it. I am not going to get into any interpretations of this at this point, of its terms or elements."

Sam Pappas, a political scientist at Haifa University, linked Tutwiler's remarks to the talks in Ottawa being boycotted by Israel.

Israel says that it fears that agreeing to negotiate with diaspora Palestinians would mean agreeing to their demands for the right of return and also open the door to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) involvement in peace talks.

Mr. Pappas told Israel radio

Washington appeared to be warning "things could go in a much less desirable direction" if Israel insists on staying away from the Ottawa talks.

Some Israeli officials evidently understood Ms. Tutwiler to be saying the United States supported the right of Palestinian Arabs to return to Jaffa.

But Ms. Tutwiler said the question about Jaffa called for an interpretation of the resolution that she did not want to give.

"I was not saying we have a position on Jaffa," Ms. Tutwiler told the Associated Press after senior Israeli officials had telephoned the department to register "our concern."

They were told the department "will look into it," Israeli officials said. Later, a senior official informed the Israeli government that Ms. Tutwiler was not trying to interpret the resolution.

Asked at the briefing if she considered it an interpretation that the resolution says Palestinians can return to Jaffa, Ms. Tutwiler replied: "That's correct."

Later, Ms. Tutwiler said "it was quite clear I was not going to engage in any type of interpretation. I was not saying we have a position on Jaffa."

Water problem tabled in Vienna

(Continued from page 1)

Israel pumps water sources in the West Bank and Gaza Strip almost at capacity, with 83 per cent going to Israeli and Israeli settlers and only 17 per cent to Palestinian residents.

Israel, which declared all information on water a military secret in 1967, rarely allows Palestinians to drill replacement wells but routinely drills for new Israeli settlements.

Israeli settlers use seven times more water per capita than Palestinians but paying one-quarter as much for it.

Israel's other two main sources of water are also posing problems. Its coastal aquifer has been overpumped for years, resulting in lower water quality.

The level of the Sea of Galilee, fed by the Jordan River and drainage off the occupied Golan Heights, was dangerously low until this year's rains.

Israel, Jordan and Syria are arguing

about rights to water from the River Jordan and its tributary, the Yarmouk.

Recent studies have indicated Israel will have a water shortfall of 30 per cent by the year 2000. Iraq's and Syria's shortfall will be twice that.

Jordan's water needs are expected to double by 2010.

The Israelis are reluctant to relinquish the West Bank of the Jordan River not only because they say it is part of "ancient Israel" but because it is a vital source of water.

The politics of thirst are at their most explosive in the triangle formed by Syria, South Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip — the main battleground in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Israelis also occupy Syria's Golan Heights, source of the Banias springs which feed the Jordan's tributaries.

These supply about one-quarter of the water for Israel and the West

Bank.

Turkey's rivalry with neighbouring Syria and Iraq and Egypt's fears that Ethiopia and Sudan will block the life-giving Nile are other sources of tensions.

The sources of the region's three great rivers, the Euphrates, the Tigris and the Nile, lie in non-Arab countries — Turkey and Ethiopia. Their relations with the downstream states are often uneasy.

Last year, Syria and Iraq protested fiercely when Turkey cut off much of the Euphrates flow for a month to fill up the giant Ataturk Dam.

When the project is completed, Syria, which draw 90 per cent of its surface water from the Euphrates, faces a flow cut by half.

By the time the river reaches Iraq, its flow will have been reduced to one-third.

Egypt gets almost all its water from the Nile, which has shaped the country's destiny millennia.

But Sudan and Ethiopia control some 85 per cent of the water that reaches the Aswan High Dam, Egypt's main reservoir.

Israel's rule

(Continued from page 1)

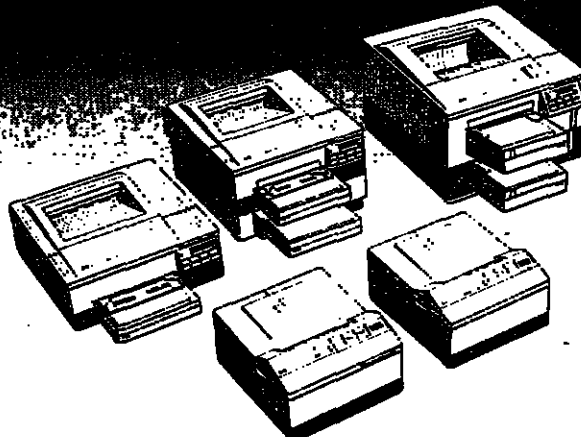
ed a youth who hurled two fire-bombs at an army post. She said another Palestinian was wounded by soldiers when a crowd tried to stop soldiers from evacuating the wounded Arab.

In the northern West Bank village of Arakbeh, near Jenin, soldiers shot and wounded one Palestinian and captured a second after a gunfight between troops and three armed Palestinians, military sources said.

They said the third man escaped. No Israeli soldiers were wounded in the clash.

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Al Ramtha, Al Hussein take top spot in Jordan soccer league

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Ramtha and Al Hussein topped the overall standings at the end of the seventh week of soccer's first division championship as both teams scored vital wins over Al Ahli and Al Faisali, while in other matches Al Wihdat lost again and Al Arabi scored their first win.

At Al Hussein Youth City Tuesday, Al Ramtha managed to overcome Al Ahli who had not lost any match yet.

Al Ramtha tried to score an early goal and succeeded in doing so by a penalty kick from Salim Diabat in the 19th minute.

Al Ahli repeatedly tried to equalize. A pass from Nart Yada to Musa Shteyan enabled Al Ahli to score the equalizing goal in the 32nd minute. Al Ahli then lost another chance to score minutes later, as the first half ended in a 1-1 draw.

Both teams lost more chances in the second half. Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hadeib secured his team's win with a second goal in the 81st minute to end the match 2-1 for Al Ramtha who so far have not lost any match.

Meanwhile at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid, Al Qadisiyah who had defeated Al Wihdat 2-0 last week, lost 1-0 to Al Arabi.

Al Qadisiyah lost the chance to gain an early lead when they failed to score from a penalty kick



Khaled Samrein

in the eighth minute.

Al Arabi then relentlessly attacked but failed to score while Al Qadisiyah tightened their defense and closely guarded Al Arabi's strikers.

After the first half ended scoreless, both teams tried to score but failed until the 75th minute when the referee awarded a penalty kick to Al Arabi who scored to win their first match.

In another match Al Faisali lost 1-0 to Al Hussein. Al Faisali's Jamal Abu Abed and Jireys Tadros lost many chances as the first half ended in a scoreless draw. Al Hussein prevented Al Faisali from scoring while they secured their winning goal by Aref Hussein in the 83rd minute.

Meanwhile Al Wihdat suffered yet another humiliating defeat at the hands of newcomers to the division Yarmouk Amman.

Al Wihdat, whose players seem to have lost their fighting spirit, have only won one out of the six matches they played so far. They also are missing five players due to injury or suspension.

Yarmouk's defense, led by Khaled Samrein, successfully prevented Al Wihdat from scoring.

In the second half Yarmouk attacked frequently, while Wihdat's Ibrahim Sa'diyeh tried hard to avoid another loss but lacked coordination with the younger players the coach substituted.

Al Yarmouk scored the match's only goal by Khaled Yousef in the 73rd minute to win the match and add two points to

their overall standing.

After a humiliating record in the championship this season in which titleholder Al Wihdat lost 2-0 to Al Qadisiyah, 1-0 to Al Hussein, drew with Al Ahli and Al Faisali and scored their only win 4-2 over Al Arabi, the team's coach and manager quit Tuesday and the team now faces a bumpy road ahead as they must win their upcoming matches if they want to improve their standing, let alone holding on to the title. Over the past weeks the morale of the players has sunk and they have disappointed and lost the support of their fans.

In the eighth week of competition Sahab plays Al Wihdat, Al Ramtha plays Al Faisali and Yarmouk Amman plays Al Ahli Friday, while Al Hussein clashes against Al Qadisiyah Saturday.

STANDINGS

Team	Played	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Al Ramtha	6	4	2	—	12	4	10
Al Hussein	6	4	2	—	10	5	10
Al Qadisiyah	7	2	3	2	7	5	7
Al Faisali	6	1	4	1	7	7	6
Al Ahli	6	1	4	1	6	6	6
Yarmouk Amman	6	2	1	3	5	9	5
Al Wihdat	6	1	2	3	6	8	4
Sahab	6	—	4	2	7	11	4
Al Arabi	7	1	2	4	7	12	4

AL DUSTOUR CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND UP

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq's No. 2, Al Shurta club, Wednesday upset Iraqi first division titleholders Al Karth with a slim difference of 2 points to assert themselves as one of the teams who will be competing for the Al Dustour Basketball Championship title.

Al Shurta led through most of the first half as they led 10-5 and later 15-7 in the 4th minute. Al Karth lessened the gap at 17-14 and caught up to lead 25-24 in the 10th minute.

Al Karth's Thamer Mustafa scored 23 points for his team and captivated fans with 2 slam dunks as they continued to lead and won the first half 37-44.

Al Karth kept their lead at 70-60 but Al Shurta caught up and drew 72-72. From then on scoring was close and both teams again drew at 93-93 with 55 seconds remaining. Al Shurta managed to score and won the match 95-93 giving Al Karth, who aim at winning the championship title and had not lost any match yet, their first defeat.

In Tuesday's late matches Jordan's Al Ahli scored a convincing 99-74 win over Al Riyadi of Lebanon. Al Ahli won the first half with a big difference of 61-30.

Al Ahli's Naser Bustanq who is still recuperating from surgery has not played in the championship yet but has voiced hope that he might play in the final two matches.

In another match, Al Markazi of Lebanon scored their first win when they beat the Sudanese national team 81-56. Al Markazi won the first half 35-25.

So far Al Ahli and Al Shurta are the only teams to have won all their matches, while Al Riyadi and the Sudanese team have so far failed to score a win.

In Thursday's matches, Al Riyadi plays the Sudanese national team at 4:30 and Al Shurta plays Al Orthodoki at 6:30. Both matches are at Al Orthodoki Club's court. Al Karth clashes against Al Ahli at 8:30 at the Sports Palace Court.

STANDINGS UP TO TUESDAY MAY 12

Team	Played	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Al Ahli	3	3	—	246	200	6
Al Karth	2	2	—	211	159	4
Al Shurta	2	2	—	189	163	4
Al Markazi	3	1	2	239	228	4
Al Orthodoki	2	1	1	179	187	3
Al Riyadi	3	—	3	232	280	3
Al Khartoum	3	—	3	170	249	3

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 15, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Mental confusion seems to be the order of the day so seek the right means to solve the annoying problems that seem to come your way out of left-field. Carry through with proven ideas.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A communication from after can make you lose sight of a course already in motion and that needs more concentration and attention on your part.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider well whatever you want to do of a financial nature that changes present sources of revenue and complete a plan already put in motion.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are all enthused about breaking up a present situation for the untold and the unknown but if you do you will soon be back to square one.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You feel you just have to hold on to your job or that has become a pain in the neck but it has to be done.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You feel some new acquaintances will lighten present burdens but a change in friendships now will accomplish nothing of a constructive nature.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Going off to a new interest is very tempting to you but consider

all aspects of such a venture and you see it will take more time and energy than it is worth.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Going on a trip seems the answer to what will bring you more of the pleasures you desire but you'd find nothing there but more problems.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you have in mind about getting out from under some promise you have made could boomerang on you so carry through even though it takes valuable time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Show your ability to get along with unusual associates by going along with what they want to do and makes you get your own innings in.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You start the day feeling you can't stand another day of work but using your own talent and expertise to do your job makes them especially well done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You feel you just have to have a good time today but nothing seems to work out in that direction as you wish to plod along at usual pursuits.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well the various tasks facing you at your dwelling and don't make any changes in them now that could disturb another family member.

England beats Hungary 1-0

BUDAPEST (R) — England's European Championship preparations and team permutations continued with a 1-0 win over Hungary Tuesday.

The 55th minute goal, undoubtedly claimed by Neil Webb, arrived courtesy of a Hungarian boot.

For once marksman Gary Lineker was the provider, swooping on to substitute Andy Sinton's pass over the top of the defense and hooking the ball across goal.

Webb's header at the far post looked goalbound but it was Andras Telek's foot which gave it

the deadly deflection.

Such has been the pace of England manager Graham Taylor's revolution since he took charge in September 1990 that Lineker was the only survivor of the side that drew 0-0 in the Nép Stadium four years ago.

England, unbeaten since Taylor arrived, produced little of danger to the Hungarian defense.

Among early threats, Emil Lorincz's rampage through a deserted midfield should have been the most punishing but he ruined an ominous approach with a wild pass.

America3 takes a 2-1 lead in America's Cup

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — Bill Koch sailed his America3 across the finish line a convincing one minute, 58 seconds ahead of Italy's Il Moro Di Venezia on Tuesday to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven America's Cup finals.

"It all went very well. Our crew work was flawless and our tactics conservative," said Koch, who kept the wheel for the last five of the race's eight legs after David Dellenbaugh got him well-positioned at the start and number one helmsman Buddy Melges built a lead.

After crossing the start line two seconds behind, the America3,

team chose the left side of the course while Il Moro skipper Paul Cayard chose the wrong one, as it turned out.

The winds favored the Americans' side and they built a 47-second lead by the first mark and never looked back.

It was a far cry from Sunday's three-second thriller when Il Moro won by the narrowest margin in 141 years of cup finals.

The closest margin after the start was 41 seconds, at the second mark, and at the finish the two were wider apart than at any other mark. America3 finished in two hours 22 minutes 53 seconds.

WANTED

The Jordan Design and Trade Centre seeks individuals for the following positions:

International Sales Coordinator: Candidates should be fluent in English and French (knowledge of German would be a plus), have minimum of 5 years of sales experience, preferably in international market, excellent organizational and communications skills, and a willingness to travel.

Business Accountant: Candidates should have experience working with a non-profit organization, good command of English, good computer skills, ability to train, good communications skills, and a minimum of 5 years experience.

Project Coordinator: This is a liaison position between the center and handicraft production units outside Amman. Candidates should have excellent supervisory, communications, and organizational skills, a willingness to travel, openness to flexible working hours, and a good command of English.

For more information please contact "Miss May" at 689142 or send your C.V. to P.O. Box 958805, Amman - Jordan. Attn: Miss May

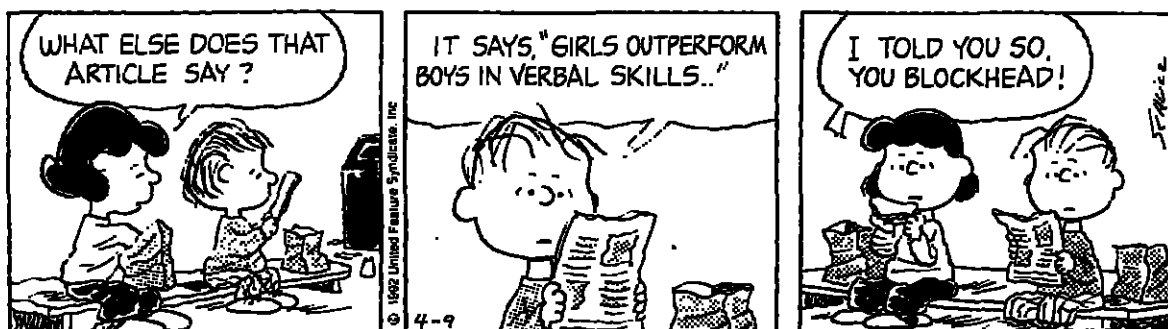
EMPLOYMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

An international project is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Liaison Officer with the following qualifications:

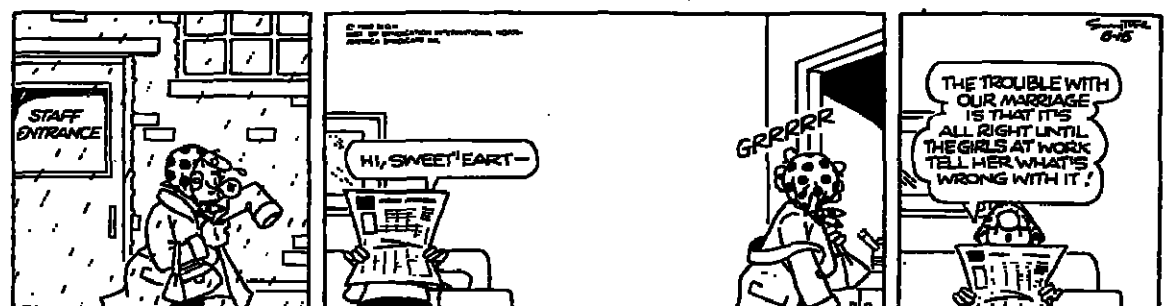
- High Reading, Writing and Verbal Skills in English and Arabic
- Ability to do Computerized Spreadsheets and Word Processing in English
- Minimum of Five Years Experience in Office Administration
- Good Human Relations Skills
- Jordanian Resident of Amman Area
- Drivers License

Qualified candidates with a current C.V. may call Mr. Nustas at 689192 before 19 May 92 for more details.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 14, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Avoid unreliable persons as best you can today. Also, keep them away from others who are working with you so that misinformation doesn't get in the hands of the wrong people.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is certainly a day and evening when you get most anything that you want by putting your best foot forward expressing your charm.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider now what luxuries and valuable articles you want and take quiet action to get them and you should be able to get them at a bargain.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Seek out both men and women friends who are especially attractive and with whom you want a future association and make them more a part of your life.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your good standing can soar now by whatever you do in the world of outside activity that pleases others and brings you to the forefront.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the time for you to seek new horizons through which to best express yourself so you have more happiness and growth in the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do those things that you know please your close attachment and

reap the rewards for that person is especially open to greater affection for you now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Men of importance and attractive women in the outside world are the means by which you can gain the various benefits for which you are striving.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your day to put some additional comfort and operative skill in whatever your activities you have and then your future is easier to make prosperous.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A great day to get right into the various outlets that bring you the greatest amount of happiness and pleasure which can continue for sometime.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take a good look at your home and whatever is there and consider what you can get that will add to the harmony and accord of family relationships.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) In any communications today add a note of appreciation for your correspondents association and you get very favorable results very quickly.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider what you can do to make your property more valuable and prepare to spend a little extra for this purpose as big profits could soon follow.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAPAT

BIELL

ANGOLS

CEIVED

Answer: "RAPE, BELL, ANGOL, CEIVE"

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLAZE GUESS COHORT TRAGIC

Answer: The horse-drawn carriage disappeared with the arrival of this—THE "CAR-AGE"

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠63 ♥KQJ10762 ♠Void ♠A1093 As dealer, what is your opening bid?

A.—With so many controls, we feel this hand is too strong for a preempt—there are simply too many hands where partner would not act that could produce a slam. Our choice is one heart, followed by a four-heart rebid.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠63 ♥KQJ10762 ♠9 ♠A103 As dealer, what is your opening bid?

A.—The fact that you have a singleton diamond rather than a void and one potential trick fewer because you hold only three clubs makes this a perfect preempt in first seat. Applying the Rule of 2 and 3, we would open four hearts.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠63 ♥KQJ10762 ♠Void ♠A1093 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West Pass Pass ?

What is your opening bid? A.—Since partner is a passed hand, the possibility of a slam has waned considerably and the probability the hand belongs to the opponents has greatly increased. Therefore, we would preempt with four hearts to make it as difficult as possible for them to get into the auction.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠KQ74 ♥AQJ9 ♠AJ5 ♠73 Partner opens the bidding with one

no trump. What do you respond? A.—You have slam-going values, but to simply jump to six no trump would be a mistake. The hand might play better in a major suit if you have a 4-4 fit. Therefore, start with a Stayman inquiry of two clubs to check on that possibility.

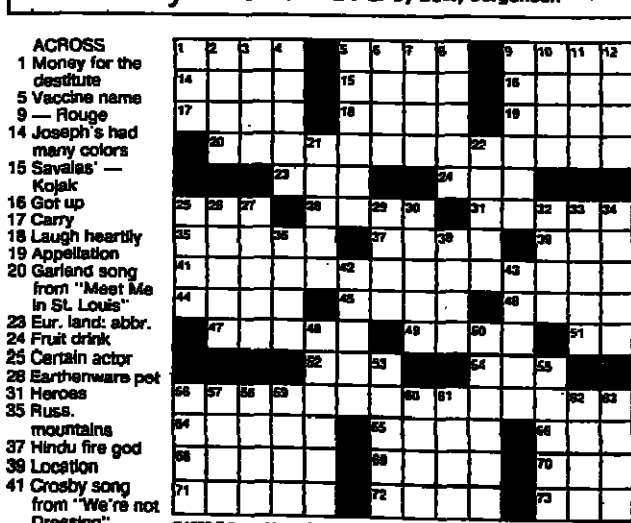
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠10872 ♥A5 ♠A5 ♠KQ1052 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass ?

What do you bid now? A.—Obviously, there are two choices—one spade or one no trump. Since your hand is unbalanced and would play better at a suit if a fit can be located, we prefer bidding one spade to one no trump, despite the poor quality of our second suit.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠95 ♥AQ10865 ♠A ♠KQ107 The bidding has proceeded: East South West North 3 ♠ ?

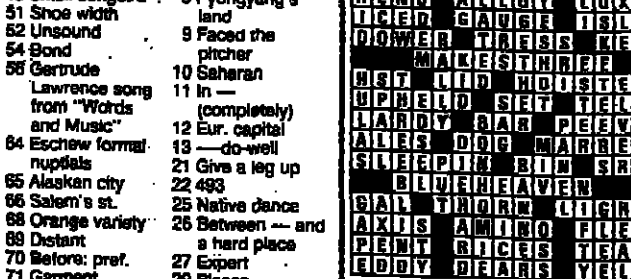
What action do you take? A.—You have a very good hand, but your heart suit is not good enough to venture four hearts. You can rule out a takeout double because you won't be able to handle repeat spade bids from partner. That leaves a simple overcall of three hearts as your only option. If that results in a misused game, give the preemptive devil his due.

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen



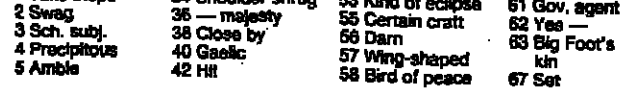
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK 12/5/92	TOKYO 13/5/92
Sterling Pound	1.8118	1.8183
Deutsche Mark	1.6242	1.6242
Swiss Franc	1.5038	1.4998
French Franc	5.4500	5.4253*
Japanese Yen	130.65	130.30
European Currency Unit	1.2665	1.2722

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 UNIT	3 UNITS	6 UNITS	12 UNITS
U.S. Dollar	3.75	3.81	3.81	3.81
Sterling Pound	10.06	10.06	10.00	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.62
Swiss Franc	9.25	9.00	8.87	8.62
French Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.75
Japanese Yen	4.70	4.65	4.59	4.56
European Currency Unit	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.81

Freight Rates

Metal	USD/oz	DM/oz	Metal	USD/oz	DM/oz
Gold	335.25	6.60	Silver	4.09	.090

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.680	0.682
Sterling Pound	1.2322	1.2384
Deutsche Mark	0.4785	0.4806
Swiss Franc	0.4516	0.4539
French Franc	0.1247	0.1253
Japanese Yen	0.5197	0.5223
Dutch Guilder	0.3717	0.3736
Swedish Krona	0.1163	0.1169
Italian Lira	0.0556	0.0559
Belgian Franc	0.02034	0.02044

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	1/5/92	Close	12/5/92	Close
All-Share	143.33		143.28	
Banking Sector	105.67		105.73	
Insurance Sector	146.86		148.68	
Industry Sector	196.50		196.02	
Services Sector	181.36		181.99	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	1/5/92	Close	12/5/92	Close
One Sterling	1.8185/95			
One U.S. dollar	1.2033/38			
	1.6165/75			
	1.8180/90			
	1.4915/25			
	33.24/28			
	5.4210/60			
	1215/1216			
	129.70/80			
	5.8200/50			
	6.3050/100			
	6.2400/50			
One ounce of gold	334.80/335.30			

U.S. food to Lebanon to end next year

BEIRUT (R) — A U.S. government aid programme feeding 160,000 destitute and needy families in Lebanon is to end next March, a Lebanese charity official has said.

Marwan Sidani, country representative for Save the Children Federation (SCF), told Reuters that SCF and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) decided last month to stop the programme.

"It was a joint decision as we were phasing down the feeding programme because the civil war is over and we want to focus more on income-generating and other projects," Mr. Sidani added.

Mr. Sidani said USAID provided 22,680 tonnes of rice, beans, vegetable oil and lentils this year for the programme, now in its sixth year, and paid for shipping and distribution by SCF.

The government accused Israel and its allies including the United States of withholding economic aid and investment to try to force Beirut to change its policies towards the Jewish state.

Western diplomats said Beirut failed to secure foreign aid and investment because of widespread corruption, doubts about Lebanon's stability and the continued detention of two German hostages.

They said despite the economic crisis few Lebanese were in danger of going hungry and malnutrition was extremely rare.

Egyptian minister says OPEC era gone

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Oil Minister Hamdi Al Banbi said in remarks published Wednesday that cartels like the oil producers grouping OPEC were a thing of the past. "The time for all cartels has gone. We can't say that an industrial grouping has the ability to do something, just like oil cartels," Mr. Banbi told the weekly Al-Mussawwar magazine.

Egypt is not a member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Mr. Banbi said the world was moving away from the cartel era towards a system of dialogue between producers and consumers.

Asked if current oil prices were likely to rise, Mr. Banbi said he believed they should stabilise at a slightly higher rate closer to the OPEC's market price of \$21 a barrel.

London police report nearly 70% rise in fraud

LONDON (R) — Fraud attempts against London's financial institutions rose by nearly 70 per cent last year, to just under £1 billion (\$1.8 billion).

Most cases were against banks, police in the city of London, the capital's financial heart, said Wednesday. Bank fraud accounted for 68 per cent of new cases.

But of the £947 million (\$1.7 billion) that fraudsters tried to make off with, all but £10.7 million (\$19 million) was saved, they said in an annual report.

There was no single reason for the increase in attempted fraud, the report added.

"What a lot of criminal organisations do is attack as many companies in as many different ways as they can," said superintendent Paul Eskriett of the police Company Fraud Department.

"Criminals now have the

Syrian deputies call for larger private sector role

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's parliament has passed a 1992 budget projecting 93.04 billion Syrian pounds (\$8.3 billion) in expenditure, a 9.86 per cent increase over last year, officials said.

They said parliament members, who approved the budget after a week of discussion with ministers including Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi, called for encouragement of the private sector to play a greater role in the country's economic development.

Japan labour ministry to cut maximum overtime

TOKYO (R) — Japan's labour ministry, committed to giving the country's staid work-force more time off, has said it plans to cut the maximum recommended hours for overtime work by at least 20 per cent.

He said a new ministry guideline, which are widely used by private firms to draft company rules, could go into effect as soon as October.

The government wants to reduce average annual working hours from about 2,000 last year to about 1,800. Death from overwork, or "karoshi", is a growing problem in this workaholic nation.

By comparison, the German worker put in 1,500 hours last year, with the West European average reaching about 1,800.

The current guideline, set by the ministry in 1989, calls for firms to limit overtime to 15 hours a week, 50 hours a month or 450 hours a year.

According to a recent ministry survey, most firms have met these

Kuwait wants contractors to reinvest earnings

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has said contractors rebuilding the country should accept offset deals committing them to reinvest earnings here or to work with Kuwaiti investors abroad.

The government said in a statement that Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan had been authorised to "take all needed measures to implement this programme."

Investment experts said the government and major investment companies want to encourage the public and private sectors in Kuwait to take part in a possible \$40 billion offset programme over the next five to 10 years.

"Now that the cabinet has approved the idea of offset it will certainly help the country's economy," one investment expert said.

The experts said the idea was being promoted by Kuwait International Investment Company (KIIC) and the Bank of America, which strongly believe that it is one of the paths that Kuwait should follow as part of its reconstruction strategy.

Most offset agreements in the Middle East have been linked to military sales and transfer of foreign technology, such as in U.S. and British offset programmes in Saudi Arabia, they said.

But Kuwait was adopting a different approach and wants civilian contractors and suppliers to be involved in offset as part of accepting major rebuilding contracts in the emirate following seven months of Iraqi occupation.

The statement said the offset programme "aims to commit foreign companies that win government contracts to invest in Kuwait or abroad in economic or technical projects with the participation of Kuwaiti investors in the private and public sectors."

It said the programme "would help in the country's reconstruction and in boosting the private sector... and provide advanced technology in the educational, scientific, social, economic and industrial sectors which will help the national economy."

Romania to withdraw small banknotes

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's National Bank has said it will start to withdraw small-denomination banknotes of 25 and 50 lei from circulation on June 1.

The value of the notes, which date from 1966, fell dramatically after the overthrow of communism in December 1989 when a dollar equalled 12 lei at the official exchange rate, compared with 225 lei now. Prices have more than quadrupled since then.

National Bank officials said the small banknotes, which carry Romania's old name of "Socialist Republic", were also a health hazard. Most are so worn that they are illegible.

New 20 and 50 lei coins are already in circulation.

Revenue fell nearly five per cent to 8.6 trillion lei (\$7 billion).

Computer analyst Andrew Haskins of brokers James Capel said the figures came as no surprise.

"Olivetti is trying to put as many restructuring charges as possible in its 1991 accounts in order to improve its chances for breaking even or showing profits this year," he said.

Earlier this year Olivetti said it expected to show a 1991 loss of at least \$242 million.

Bahrain plans to shake up commerce laws in few weeks

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain is planning drastic changes in commerce laws which have been in effect for nearly two decades as part of wide-ranging plans to revive its economy.

Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Kassem said in remarks published Wednesday the laws — which will alter the rigid relationship between foreign firms and local agents — would be introduced by the end of May.

Mr. Kassem did not give details but he told the English language Gulf Daily News the changes would address complaints from the international business community and promote free competition.

At present, only one authorised trader in Bahrain has the monopoly of distributing any foreign firm's product and the contract drawn up between the two parties is unalterable.

Bahrain's powerful business community has been resisting proposals to change the law.

"There have been shortcomings in certain areas, mainly the eternal relationship between principals and agents," Mr. Kassem said.

"We hope the new law strikes a happy balance between the interests of local agents, principals and consumers," he added.

Bahrain last year broke with long-standing tradition by issuing laws that would allow 100 per cent foreign-owned firms to operate in the country providing they made it a regional base.

It is also planning to pass laws which would allow joint public stock companies to issue debt securities which would be traded by foreigners as well as Bahrainis.

Greek government proposes new income tax scale

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — In a bid to increase revenues, the government Tuesday introduced a bill reducing income tax while threatening harsh penalties for tax dodgers.

It proposes a new income tax scale of between zero and 40 per cent, as opposed to the present 18-50 per cent. As of 1994, the upper limit will drop to 30 per cent, according to the bill that will become law after a debate in early June.

The finance ministry says that it loses billions of drachmas annually through tax evasion. The conservative government is trying to increase revenues and curb spending to lessen deficits and lower inflation currently running at 16 per cent annually.

It has applied a wage freeze for public sector employees, who comprise about 15 per cent of the work force. In its budget for 1992 it forecast a 26 per cent increase in revenue from direct taxes.

Tax evaders may face a ban on transferring their assets and up to 50 per cent of their accounts may be frozen. They may also face a two-month suspension of their professional or company's operating license.

People may be arrested for not paying debts to the state or to social security funds. Not handing over indirect taxes will be considered embezzlement.

The new law will also allow tax deductions for rent, home loan interest, private schooling, lawyers' fees, medical expenditure and life insurance premiums of up to 200,000 drachmas (\$1,000) per year.

It will reduce inheritance taxes, and taxes on gifts and the transfer of assets by up to 60 per cent. Doctors will now be required to keep ledgers of patients.

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Fully furnished apartment in Shmeisani, behind the Arab Bank. Consisting of two bedrooms and a joint living & dining room, with telephone and central heating.

If interested please call: 666987 between 9:30-1:30 & 3:30-7:00

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Friday May 15, 1992, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

In the Gardens of HE British Ambassador's Residence, Jabal Amman.

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WHITE ELEPHANT STALL
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Entrance: Adults JD 1.000 Children JD 0.250

ROYAL JORDANIAN

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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1. B.Sc Degree in electronic engineering.
2. Minimum two years accredited experience on Data Communications networks and network peripherals that include P.C.s, terminals, modems printers etc.
3. Excellent command of English language written and spoken is essential.

Qualified applicants will be requested to sit for written examination and personal interview.

Interested applicants are requested to complete the Royal Jordanian application form bringing with them one photograph and relevant documentations to:

EMPLOYMENT SECTION
ROYAL JORDANIAN
HOUSING BANK CENTER 12 Floor
SHMEISANI

Closing date for applications is 21/5/1992

CONCORD Tel: 677420

Ornella Motti & Sylvester Stallone in
OSCAR

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre Tel: 675571

Starting Thursday, you will be meeting with
Nabil and Eisham
in their play
"Welcome To The New World Order"

Performances: 8:30 p.m. daily
Additional performances will be staged on Wednesday, starting 4:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

Eddie Murphy in
HARLEM NIGHTS

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW Tel: 625155

CROCODILE DUNDEE "2"

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PERSPECTIVES
AL GHAD AL IKHTIBARI

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Serb truce largely holds in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Guns fell silent around besieged Sarajevo Wednesday as Serbs began a five-day ceasefire. But heavy fighting reportedly continued for control of Croat and Muslim areas in the north of Bosnia.

Bosnian radio said at least two people died and five were wounded in overnight bombardment of Sarajevo. The railway station was set ablaze, and the state's presidency building and main shopping centre hit.

At least two soldiers from the Serb-led army were wounded in a Muslim attack Tuesday on the army's Central Sarajevo Barracks, witnesses said.

Shelling abated before a 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) deadline for Serb forces besieging Sarajevo to cease fire across Bosnia-Herzegovina for five days. Only machine-gun fire rattled across the city centre about half an hour later.

But Serbian media said fighting around the towns of Derventa, Modrica and Doboj, all in northern Bosnia, was heavy. All three towns have fallen to Serb forces, but Muslim and Croat fighters are still putting up resistance in the region.

Bosnian Serbs, in their self-styled parliament in the Serb-held northern town of Banja Luka, Tuesday defiantly formed their own army but appeared to acknowledge mounting diplomatic

pressure on their allies in Serbia with the five-day ceasefire. Serb forces "will respond only if considerably threatened," the Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency said.

On Monday, the 12-nation European Community (EC) withdrew its ambassadors from Belgrade, capital of Serbia and the new, smaller Yugoslavia formed last month by Serbia and its ally Montenegro.

Lord Carrington, chief EC negotiator on Yugoslavia, attributed the ceasefire in part to EC pressure on Serbia.

But he was reluctant to answer the parliament's call for resumption of EC talks on Bosnia that would sit until peace is achieved between Serbs and the state's Muslims and Croats.

"Until there is a ceasefire, it seems very difficult to envisage a situation in which the three parties are going to sit down and talk sense," he told the British Broadcasting Corp's Radio 4 in London.

The EC pulled its last monitors out of Sarajevo Tuesday.

More than 1,300 people have died and some 700,000 fled their homes since Bosnia's Muslims and Croats, about two-thirds of the area's 4.3 million people, voted Feb. 29 for independence from Yugoslavia.

Ethnic Serbs boycotted the



vote and are determined not to sever their links with Serbia. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, is under pressure from his supporters to get tough with the Serbs. But a spokesman for Mr. Izetbegovic said the president scheduled talks at Sarajevo Airport Wednesday with Gen. Zivota

Panic, the new chief of staff of the Yugoslav Federal Army, and Yugoslav Vice-President Branko Kostic, the army's civilian commander.

The talks are to centre on withdrawal of the Serb-led federal army from Bosnia, where it has helped Serb paramilitaries capture over half the state's territory.

Santiago claims victory in Philippine elections

MANILA (AP) — Presidential front-runner Miriam Defensor Santiago proclaimed victory Wednesday but said others in the race may still try to cheat her. Her closest rival predicted he would soon surpass her in the tight race.

Tensions were running high in scattered areas of this archipelagic nation as the count from Monday's election dragged on.

In other developments: — Foreign observers alleged massive vote-buying in the central Philippines during Monday's balloting.

A presidential candidate who fared poorly despite early expectations said he would accept the will of the public and take no action to prevent the winner from assuming office June 30.

Partial, unofficial returns showed Mrs. Santiago leading Wednesday with 564,996 votes, or 26.5 per cent. President Corason Aquino's candidate, Fidel Ramos, remained second with 492,227 votes, or 23.1 per cent.

Businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, who sought to revive the network of his friend, the late President Ferdinand Marcos, trailed in third with 331,985 votes, or 15.5 per cent.

Mr. Marcos' widow, Imelda, was running fifth with 207,339 votes. She was running ahead of House Speaker Ramon Mitra and Vice President Salvador Laurel.

Mr. Mitra had been seen as the early front-runner because his struggle of the Democratic Filipino was the largest and best organized party.

The totals represented only 2.1 million of the 27 million ballots cast in the election, in which Filipinos also chose a new congress and more than 17,000 other officials from among more than 87,700 candidates.

But Mrs. Santiago said in a statement that she was confident that her lead was "definitive and irreversible" and that she would ultimately win.

"Certain losers among the presidential candidates might try to cheat and may have even started to do so," she said. "But the youth and all Filipinos who helped me to win will not allow the triumph of evil."

It appeared, however, that Mrs. Santiago was overly optimistic and that Gen. Ramos could overtake her.

Early returns from northeastern Mindanao showed Gen. Ramos with a commanding lead and Mrs. Santiago also trailing Mr. Cojuangco, Mr. Mitra and Mr. Salonga in the area. Gen. Ramos was also leading on the populous island of Cebu.

"Now that the provincial votes are coming in, let us reiterate: I am poised to overtake Santiago's lead and from there on never turn back," Gen. Ramos told reporters.

With Gen. Ramos and Mrs. Santiago battling for the lead, Mr. Mitra all but conceded defeat. He said in a statement Wednesday that "passionate partisanship" should not "frustrate the national will."

He pledged that his party "will resist all attempts — by any element — to impede the proclamation of the winning candidates for president and vice president."

Meanwhile, tensions rose as supporters of candidates became impatient with the slow count, alleging fraud in the local tabulations.

In suburban Pasig, an angry crowd gathered up on poll clerk Pauline Velasco, accusing her of taking away election returns.

Ukraine leader rejects Commonwealth summit

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, unrelenting in his denunciations of neighbouring Russia, dealt a blow to this week's Commonwealth summit by announcing he would be staying away.

Prospects for resolving ethnic and social conflicts elsewhere in the 11-nation grouping that replaced the Soviet Union last December looked gloomy.

Fighting raged between Armenian and Azeri forces in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Demonstrations and the convening of a special parliamentary session threatened to pitch Azerbaijan into chaos.

Last Tuesday, the United Nations Security Council approved the urgent dispatch of a fact-finding mission to study the four-year-old dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Violence persisted in neighbouring Georgia's South Ossetia region. And despite an accord bringing opposition forces into a new government and parliament in the Central Asian state of Tajikistan, fresh clashes were reported and demonstrators remained in city squares.

Mr. Kravchuk told reporters on his return from New York that a meeting with Finland's President Martti Ahtisaari prevented him from attending the summit opening Friday in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

"I have a meeting with Koivisto and will not be able to make it to Tashkent on time," he said.

The Ukrainian president has made little effort to conceal his distaste for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and lack of faith in its efforts to settle the main issues separating its two Slav protagonists — Ukraine and Russia.

During his visit to the United States, he denounced Russia's assumption — and widespread Western recognition — of its role as successor state of the Soviet Union.

Little progress had been made on the issues separating Kiev and Moscow that reduced the last Commonwealth summit in March to little more than an undignified shouting match. The grouping's future looks increasingly uncertain.

President Rakhmon Nabiyev, clinging to power after more than a month of protests, and the Muslim and liberal opposition failed to reach agreement on the appointment of top officials.

Commonwealth television said reprisals had been carried out against opposition supporters in Kyrgyzstan, where many of the president's supporters have gone with their weapons. It said there had been dead and wounded in the clashes.

French National Assembly passes Maastricht bill

PARIS (R) — The French National Assembly Wednesday approved constitutional changes to bring France into line with the Maastricht treaty of European Union.

In a roll-call vote, the lower house of parliament adopted by 398 votes to 77 a bill transferring certain powers to the European Community for political, economic and monetary union.

The bill must be approved in identical wording by the Senate, the upper house, then endorsed either by a referendum or by a three-fifths majority in a congress of both houses.

Ninety-nine deputies abstained, including most of the largest conservative opposition party, the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic of Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac.

The bill was backed by almost all members of President Francois Mitterrand's Socialist Party, the opposition Democratic Centre Union (UDC) and all but a handful of ex-President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's Union for French Democracy (UDF).

The opponents included a hard core of neo-Gaullist deputies, the Communist Party, UDF and the extreme-right National Front.

The bill comprises an additional chapter to France's 1958 constitution "on the European Community and European union," authorising transfers of powers to introduce a single EC

currency by 1999, a common visa policy and the right of EC citizens resident in France to vote in local elections.

The government accepted several amendments during the marathon 25-hour debate, giving parliament a greater say in the drafting of EC directives and defining France's relationship with the Community.

Meanwhile, the Danish parliament passed a bill to ratify the Maastricht treaty Tuesday, but the final word will be left to voters in a June 2 referendum.

The bill was passed by a vote of 130 to 25.

"The new Europe is being created and we must be part of it," Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said during the marathon seven-hour debate.

"If we don't cooperate with EC member states in the European union, who in the world shall we cooperate with?"

Opposition to the treaty was divided between the right-wing Progress Party, which thinks it is a bad thing, and the leftist Socialist People's Party (SPP) which wants to renegotiate parts of it.

"The Danish people have been showing great scepticism over the treaty," SPP leader Holger K. Nielsen told parliament.



Japan press to stay mum on prince's love life

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese media ban on all speculation about Crown Prince Naruhito's search for a bride is to continue for three months. Tokyo newspapers said. In a gesture that Britain's tabloid-hungry royals must envy, the Japanese Newspaper Publishers' Association decided to extend the embargo, first introduced in February after pressing requests from the Imperial Household Agency. The agreement, which had been due to expire Wednesday, was intended to respect the rights and privacy of women seen as prospective brides for the 32-year-old heir to the chrysanthemum throne. "We are making utmost efforts to win a good result," one courtier was quoted as telling the publishers' group.

Prince Naruhito once said he wished to marry by the age of 30. But while the names of several eligible women have been raised over the years, he passed 32 in February with no sign he was any closer to making a match. Under Emperor Akihito, the prince's father, the imperial family has recently become more open. But marriage into the tradition-bound institution still does not appear to hold much appeal for women of today. Naruhito is well aware of this.

Thai police free 48 women from brothel

BANGKOK (R) — A police raid freed 48 women, some of them as young as 15, from a brothel in Thailand's east coast resort of Hua Hin, police said Tuesday.

Most of the women said they had been held against their will. They told police they had been abducted by pimps after being drugged. Police raided the brothel Monday after one girl jumped from an upper window. She broke her leg but still managed to find help. Four men and a woman have been arrested on flesh trading charges.

Actor Malkovich wants to play Howard Hughes

LONDON (R) — American actor John Malkovich has a dream to play the late U.S. billionaire Howard Hughes. "There is only one part I would really like to play, and that is Howard Hughes, because he was so extraordinary and so rich," said Malkovich, who starred in Dangerous Liaisons and the Sheltering Sky. Hughes, a recluse who went to great lengths to protect his privacy, died in 1976 aged 70. "I understand (American actor) Warren Beatty has the rights for the life story, but there have been many books written about him and he seems a fascinating character, and that is a role I would love," he told the domestic Press Association news agency. Malkovich opened in London's West End in a new play called A Slip Of The Tongue in which he is cast as a dissident writer in Eastern Europe unable to cope with the fall of communism.

Malkovich, whose family hails from Yugoslavia, also spoke of his dismay at the strife in the Balkan nation. "I have relatives there in Croatia and it is very bad. I am so sad," he said.

New hand-held computer can 'read' handwriting

WASHINGTON (R) — Apple Computer will soon unveil a hand-held computer that reads its user's handwriting, sends faxes and can exchange information with other computers by remote control, the Washington Post reported. "It's really about highly personalised devices that you can carry around in your pocket," Apple Chairman John Sculley told the paper in an interview about the Newton Computer. He gave no details of the Newton, to be introduced at the consumer electronics show in Chicago at the end of the month. But the paper quoted sources as saying Newton will weigh less than a pound (0.4 kg) and be six to eight inches (15 to 20 cm) long and around 1/2 inch (1.3 cm) thick. It will have a small display screen and a built-in speaker. The paper said the machine would cost about \$700 when it goes on sale early next year. Users will be able to jot down notes or diagrams on its screen with an electronic pen. Newton will "read" these and file them to the appropriate part of its memory. For instance, it will put a telephone number into its address book or a note about an appointment into its calendar. Users will be able to transfer information to another computer up to six feet away via infra-red light, much like a television remote control, the paper said. Newton will also have an internal modem that will allow users to transmit information over phone lines and send faxes.

Bush gives Ghali strong support for peacekeeping

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush met U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and stated his strong support for U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Dr. Ghali is trying to rally nations to pay what they owe in support of U.N. peacekeeping, which is more active than ever before with new operations in Yugoslavia, Cambodia and the Western Sahara.

"The president stated his strong support for U.N. peacekeeping operations worldwide," a White House statement said, but there was no indication the United States planned to move quickly to pay what it owes.

The United States owes \$555

million in regular U.N. budget dues for this and previous years and another \$112.4 million for U.N. peacekeeping. All U.N. members combined owe \$1.39 billion in regular dues and \$664.8 million for peacekeeping.

Mr. Bush told reporters at the start of his meeting with Dr. Ghali that he wanted to be "as cooperative as possible" in helping the United Nations carry out its mission.

Mr. Bush praised the new U.N. leader as someone who is "off to a fantastic start" even though the international body is faced with "a very difficult time." Dr. Ghali took over as secretary-general on Jan. 1 from Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Bush, Clinton win in West Virginia, Nebraska

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Clinton and President George Bush easily won primaries in Nebraska and West Virginia Tuesday, as the two vied for leadership on urban issues drawing new attention because of the Los Angeles riots.

Mr. Clinton was leading in West Virginia's Democratic primary with 74 per cent of the vote to Mr. Brown's 12 per cent with 90 per cent of precincts reporting. That lead would give the Arkansas governor his biggest victory of the primary season.

In Nebraska, Mr. Clinton led Mr. Brown 48 per cent to 22 per cent with 95 per cent reporting. The polls hadn't even closed in Nebraska when Mr. Bush aide Mary Mattalin hailed "big wins in both states. ... This is the time to put together your fall plans," she said, referring to the November general elections.

Mr. Bush was gaining 81 per cent of the West Virginia Republican vote to 15 per cent for Republican challenger Patrick Buchanan with 89 per cent of votes counted. Bush led 84 per cent to 14 per cent in Nebraska with 96 per cent of precincts reporting.

The president already had the Republican nomination locked up, and Arkansas Gov. Clinton was looking ahead to the June 2 California primary to clinch the Democratic nomination.

Mr. Bush met with congressional leaders of both parties Tuesday to work out proposals for helping the nation's cities in the aftermath of the Los Angeles riots.

"We've got to do something new," the president said. Lawmakers said the president indicated willingness to grant Democratic requests to provide emergency financing to rebuild neighbourhoods damaged in rioting. The violence erupted after the April 29 acquittal of four police officers who were videotaped beating a black man.

Mr. Clinton, however, questioned the president's dedication. "I don't think he's been passionately committed to it. He's just been playing around with it the last three years," the Democratic front-runner said.

Mr. Clinton, who won the last eight primaries against Mr. Brown, has more than 80 per cent of the delegates that he needs to win his party's nomination.

The Arkansas governor began the night with 1,738 of the 2,145 delegates necessary for the nomination. Brown had 343. There were 56 at stake in Nebraska

and West Virginia. Clinton barely campaigned in Nebraska and West Virginia, and put no advertising on television in the two states.

Texas billionaire Ross Perot was monitoring the weekly primaries from a distance, moving steadily towards an independent candidacy for the White House.

Supporters said he had submitted enough signatures to qualify for the ballot in 20 states.

As an independent, Mr. Perot has not had to run in any party primary. Roughly 30 of voters have been casting ballots for candidates other than Mr. Bush or Mr. Clinton. Their support hasn't grown even after both were assured of their party nominations.

Mr. Perot, who expects to tap the discontent evident in both major political parties, has achieved a stature unmatched in recent U.S. political history. Despite having no political background, he appears on the verge of qualifying for state ballots with ease.

Mr. Clinton took heart from a poll suggesting voters were viewing him more positively. Earlier in the campaign, his approval ratings were hurt by questions about marital infidelity, marijuana use and his draft status during the Vietnam War.

A USA Today-CNN national survey of 1,015 adults over the weekend showed Mr. Clinton was viewed unfavourably by 35 per cent and favourably by 51 per cent. The survey had a margin of error of 3 per cent.

On April 20, the same poll showed Mr. Clinton viewed unfavourably by 49 per cent and favourably by 42 per cent.

The 45-year-old Arkansas governor has already begun the selection process for a vice presidential running mate, announcing Tuesday the formation of a three-person committee which will consider possible tickets.

The committee is headed by former Deputy Undersecretary of State Warren Christopher and includes former Vermont Governor Madeline Kunin and Vernon Jordan, former head of the National Urban League, the predominantly black civil rights organisation.

The next Democratic primaries are in Oregon next week, Arkansas, Kentucky and Idaho on May 26, and Alabama, California, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio and New Mexico on June 2.

North Dakota closes the Democratic primary season on June 9.

'West freezes aid to Malawi'

PARIS (R) — Western governments have frozen most 1992-1993 aid for Malawi for six months because of the country's poor human rights record, participants at an aid meeting here said Wednesday.

The donors will continue to fund humanitarian programmes, notably for drought relief and to help refugees from neighbouring Mozambique, but all other aid will be stopped, the sources said.

At least 22 people died after riots in Malawi last week, which began with a strike over wages and took a political turn.

"These events did not have any added impact. They simply confirmed what we knew about the situation in Malawi," one participant at the 2½ day aid meeting said.

Western governments have expressed growing unease over human rights in the one-party state of life President Kamuzu Banda.

Western governments are increasingly stipulating progress on human rights and democracy as a condition for giving aid.

In an unprecedented move last year, donors froze aid to Kenya for six months pending a review of its record on human rights and democratisation.

A World Bank official said a

team from the bank was in Kenya to see what progress had been made in these areas.

A news conference given jointly by the World Bank and Malawi was scheduled for 1100 GMT Wednesday but was delayed.

Meanwhile, a delegation of international trade unionists saw detained Malawian democracy activist Chakufwa Chihana in prison Wednesday, a delegation member said.

"He has lost weight but he looks okay. It seems he has not been molested," Andrew Kalemba told Reuters by phone from Blantyre.

The delegation from the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) saw Mr. Chihana for one hour at a prison in Malawi's commercial centre shortly after meeting President Kamuzu Banda.

Mr. Kalemba, head of the ICFTU's African Department, said they had received permission to see Mr. Chihana from "higher authority."

"We are now satisfied and we have received assurances from President Banda that Chihana will get a fair trial, and he also, assured us of his safety," Mr. Kalemba added.

EC to propose carbon energy tax at Earth Summit

STRASBOURG (R) — The European Commission agreed Wednesday to propose an EC-wide carbon energy tax of \$10 per barrel to help reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, EC Environment Commissioner Carlo Ripa Di Meana said.

But the legislation, which has to be agreed by the 12 European Community governments, would take effect only if other leading industrialised countries followed suit and introduced their own taxes to combat global warming.

"The commission decided today to submit to the council (of ministers) a proposal for a directive. It's a historic day for the environment," he told a news conference.

Mr. Ripa Di Meana had been determined to put forward a formal EC tax proposal before the June 3-4 Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro, formally known as the U.N. Conference on Environ-

ment and Development. But the United States has firmly resisted any limits on carbon dioxide emissions and has managed to water down the draft agreement on global warming prepared for the Rio meeting.

"This tax will only come into effect if it is also implemented by the Community's big competitors," EC taxation Commissioner Christiane Scrivener told the same news conference.

Mr. Ripa Di Meana said the proposed tax would start at the equivalent of \$3 per barrel of oil in 1993 and rise by \$1 a year to reach \$10 in the year 2000.

Half of the tax would be levied on all non-renewable energy sources, including nuclear power, and half only on carbon fuels such as oil, coal and gas.

"We're convinced we've done our work... we want other producers to act like us," Mr. Ripa Di Meana said.

National Guard troops to start pullout from Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — California Governor Pete Wilson praised National Guard troops Tuesday for helping to restore order to Los Angeles after the city's race riots and ordered them to begin the first phase of a withdrawal.

Mr. Wilson said the force of 10,000 National Guardsmen on duty in the California City would be reduced to 6,000.

"Additional reduction in troop strength will occur only if conditions within the areas affected by the riots remain calm," Mr. Wilson said in a statement.

Mr. Wilson sent troops into inner-city neighbourhoods of Los Angeles on April 29 to help quell a wave of looting, arson and gunfire that left 58 people dead and grew into the worst U.S. race riots this century.

Four black gang members were in custody Tuesday for the near-fatal beating of a white truck driver in a televised attack which came to epitomise the violence.

Truck driver Reginald Denny, 36, was driving through south-

central Los Angeles when the riots erupted. In an attack captured by television cameras and seen around the world, he was hauled from the cab of his sand-and-gravel truck and beaten senseless by a mob of 10 people.

Three suspects were arrested in pre-dawn raids on their homes by more than 100 heavily armed police officers and FBI agents led by Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates. The four surrendered three hours after Gates announced an intensive effort to find and arrest him.

Chief Gates said police were trying to determine who the other six people were who had been involved in Denny's beating.

Chief Gates told a news conference the four suspects arrested Tuesday were members of the Crips street gang, one of two well-organised gangs that have terrorised poor neighbourhoods for years. The other gang is known as the Bloods.

Three of the four men were initially charged with attempted murder, robbery and torture and a federal charge of interfering

with a truck driver engaged in interstate commerce.

The head of the Los Angeles FBI Office announced the setting up of a special 100-member task force to hunt down rioters, particularly gang members, and seek out store owners who torched their own buildings in arson-for-profit scams.

Meanwhile, Hollywood Vice Officer Tony Yancey thought he'd seen it all in his 22 years on the force. But nothing, he says, compares to the thankless job of a Los Angeles Police officer today.

Disenchanted with the top brass, accused of brutality and racism and condemned for a slow response to the riots, street cops say they're being blamed unfairly for the city's ills and politicians' failures.

"Some days you don't want to get up and deal with it anymore," Mr. Yancey said. "You develop that attitude where nobody loves you but your partner."

Police officers have worked 12-hour shifts since rioting erupted. They have endured hostility from

both the public and politicians. A crowd protesting the acquittals smashed windows at police headquarters. "Killa (killer) police" leaflets appeared in gang-ridden south central Los Angeles. Shotgun-toting officers stood guard outside sandbagged police stations.

Meanwhile, Mayor Bradley — whose proposed budget would cut the 8,000-member department by nearly 700 officers — visited burned-out Koreatown jewelry store and said police could have prevented the arson.

Fire chief Donald Manning accused police of breaking promises to protect firefighters during the riots.

Community leaders and politicians condemned Lt. Michael Moulin's decision to withdraw his outnumbered forces from an intersection where motorists were pulled from their vehicles and beaten.

Even police chief Gates said Lt. Moulin may have erred. But he insisted that top commanders responded correctly to the unrest.

"The troops are so disgusted I can't believe it. I don't know how they're ever going to recover," Lt. George Alianza said.

"No one is speaking for the officers. Every critic comes out and before it's over we will be the sole cause of the riots. And if they could, they'd have us doing the looting, too."

Cop-bashing has become so common that even Stanley K. Sheinbaum, president of the five-member Civilian Police Commission and a frequent department critic, called for a stop to it.

Street cops, he said Monday, are "taking a hit for what everybody in this city is responsible for."

Mr. Yancey said that since the King beating on March 3, 1991, police hesitate to use force. Mr. King was beaten, kicked and shot with a stun gun by officers who did not realise they were being videotaped by a bystander.

"Officers hesitate now to do their jobs, and for a person in the deadly force business you can't hesitate," he said.